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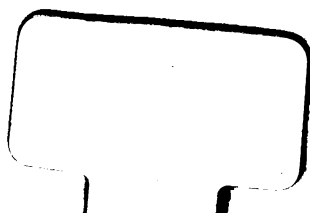
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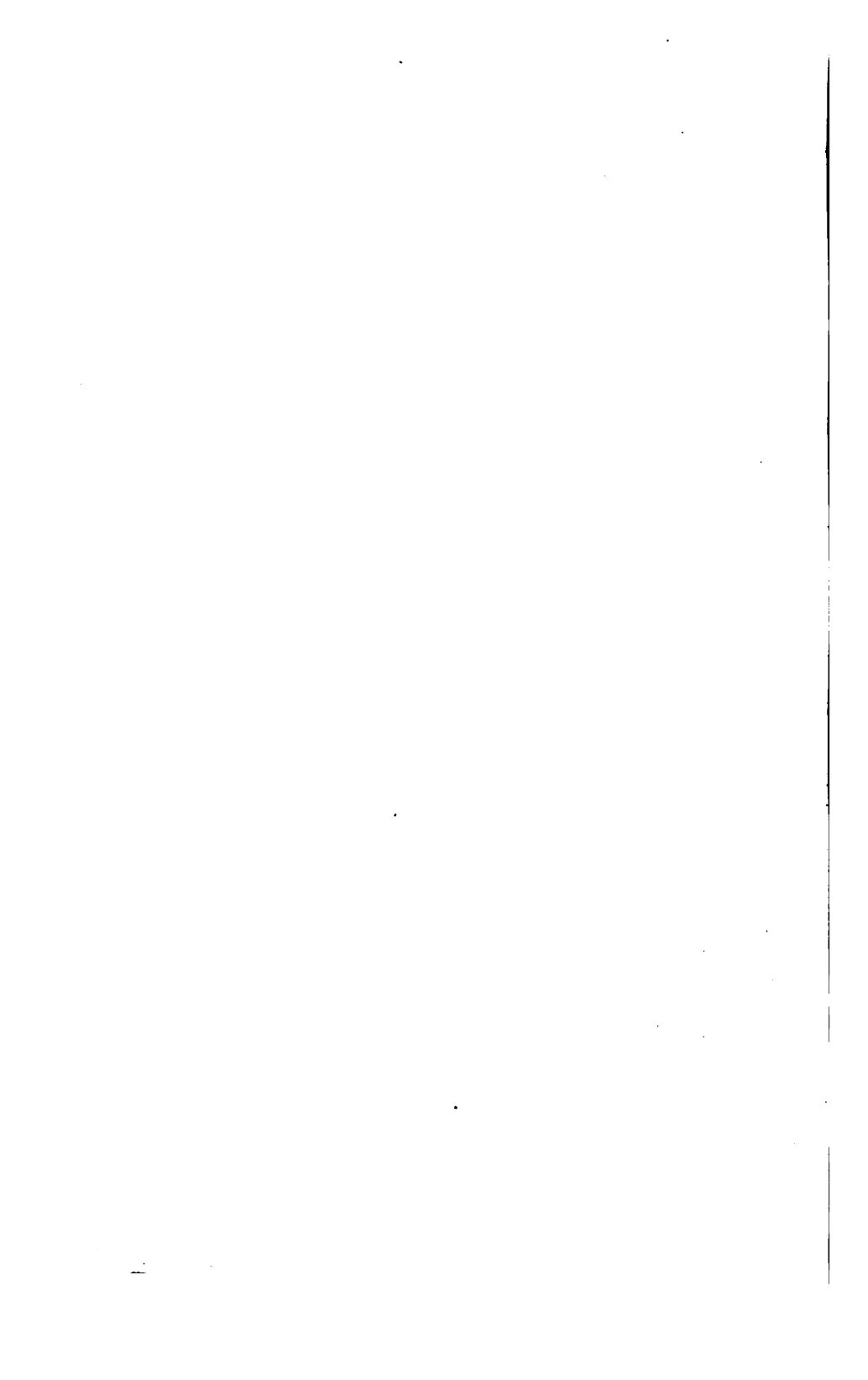
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REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF STATE COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE
GENERAL SUPERVISION
OF
Charitable, Penal, Pauper, and Reformatory Institutions.



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STATE OF MICHIGAN.

AN ACT

To Provide for the Appointment of a Board of Commissioners for the General Supervision of Penal, Pauper, and Reformatory Institutions, and Defining their Powers and Duties.

SECTION 1. *The People of the State of Michigan enact, That within fifteen days after the passage of this act, with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Governor shall appoint three suitable persons, residents of the State, to be called and known as "The Board of State Commissioners, for the general supervision of Charitable, Penal, Pauper, and Reformatory Institutions," who shall hold their office respectively for the period of two, four, and six years, as indicated by the Governor in making the appointments; and all appointments thereafter made, except to fill vacancies, shall be for the period of six years. Any vacancy occurring in said board, by reason of removal, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Governor, the appointment in any case thus made to be subject to ratification or rejection by the Senate at the first regular session following such appointment. The Governor may remove any member of said board for misfeasance or malfeasance in office.*

SEC. 2. Before entering upon the discharge of their duties,

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each of the said Commissioners shall take and subscribe before the Secretary of State, who shall file the same in his office, the constitutional oath of office. The said Commissioners shall have power to appoint a secretary, not of their number, whose duties they may prescribe and whose salary they may establish and determine.

SEC. 3. The said Commissioners, by one of their number, or by their secretary, shall, at least once in each year, visit and examine into the *condition* of each and every of the city and county poor-houses, county jails, or other places for the detention of criminals or witnesses; and the said board, or a majority thereof, with their secretary, shall, at least once in each year, visit and examine the Reform School, State Prison, Detroit House of Correction, and State and county asylums for the insane, and the deaf, dumb, and blind, and for the purpose of ascertaining the *actual condition* of the institutions by them or by either of them visited, the *method of instruction, government, or management therein pursued*, the official conduct of the superintendents or other officers and employes in charge thereof, or connected therewith, the condition of the buildings, grounds, or other property thereunto belonging, and the facts as to all other matters in any manner pertaining to the usefulness and proper management of the institutions, poor-houses, and jails above named. They, or either of them, and their secretary, shall have free access thereto at any and all times, and shall have authority to administer oaths and examine any person or persons in any way connected with or having knowledge of the condition, management, and discipline of such institutions, jails, or poor-houses, as to any matters or inquiries not contrary to the purposes or provisions of this act.

SEC. 4. The said Commissioners shall receive no compensation for their time or services, except as hereinafter particularly provided; but the actual expenses of each of them, while engaged in the performance of their duties under this act, and

any actual outlay for stationery, office rent, or any necessary aid or assistance required in examinations or investigations, on being fully stated in account and verified by the affidavit of the Commissioner or Commissioners making the charge, and approved by the Governor, shall be paid quarterly by the State Treasurer on the warrant of the Auditor General, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; and the secretary of said board shall be paid in like manner: *Provided*, That the entire expense of said board or commission, including their compensation for services, as required by the seventh section of this act, and the salary and traveling expenses of their secretary, shall not exceed the sum of three thousand dollars per annum.

SEC. 5. No member of said board, or their secretary, shall be either directly or indirectly interested in any contract for building, repairing, or furnishing any institution, poor-house, or jail which by this act they are authorized to visit and inspect; nor shall any officer of such institution, jail, or poor-house be eligible to the office of Commissioner hereby created, nor shall any two members of said board be residents of the same county.

SEC. 6. On or before the first day of October, in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and in each second year thereafter, the said board shall report in writing to the Governor, fully, the result of their investigations, together with such other information and recommendations as they may deem proper, including their opinions and conclusions as to the necessity of further legislation to improve the condition and extend the usefulness of the various State, county, and other institutions by them visited; and the said Commissioners, or either of them, shall make any special investigation into alleged abuse in any of the institutions which by this act they are authorized to visit, whenever the Governor shall so direct, and report the result thereof to him at such reasonable time as he shall prescribe. And whenever any abusive treatment

of those confined in any of said institutions shall come to the knowledge of said commissioners, which, in their opinion, requires immediate attention and redress, they shall forthwith report the facts of such abusive treatment to the Governor, with such recommendations for the correction of the same as they shall deem proper.

SEC. 7. And the said board, in addition to the duties above prescribed, shall make a thorough examination of all the penal, criminal, or other laws of the State relating to the penal or reformatory institutions by them to be visited, or in any wise relating to the custody and punishment of criminals, and the care and confinement of the county poor and pauper insane, for the purpose of a revision of such laws by the Legislature at the first regular session following the passage of this act; and to accomplish this end, said board shall collect together all acts and parts of acts in any manner pertaining to the control, punishment, and reformation of criminals, and to the care and custody of the county poor and pauper insane, and shall report the same fully to the Governor, on or before November first, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, together with such revision, amendments, and suggestions for the improvement thereof as to such board shall be deemed necessary and expedient; the report thus made to be submitted to the Legislature by the Governor. And each of said board, for the time actually required and expended in the discharge of his duties under this section, shall be entitled to demand and receive such reasonable compensation as shall be approved by the Governor, and which shall be paid in the manner heretofore provided for the payment of their actual traveling and other necessary expenses: *Provided*, That said board shall not perform the duties provided in this section if any law shall be enacted at this session of the Legislature authorizing the same work by any other board or commission.

SEC. 8. Nothing in this act shall be construed as impairing the authority or interfering with the duties of the Board of

Inspectors of the State Prison, and the Board of Control of the Reform School, or with the duties of the Board of Control, Trustees, Commissioners, or Inspectors of any other charitable, penal, or reformatory institution of this State.

Approved April 17, 1871.

REPORT.

To His Excellency, HENRY P. BALDWIN,

Governor of the State of Michigan:

In your message transmitted to the Legislature at its biennial session in January, 1871, you recommended the establishment by law of a Board of State Commissioners, who should have the supervision, and to some extent, the control of all penal and reformatory institutions, then or thereafter to be established in the State.

Acting upon the suggestion, the Legislature, by an act approved April 17, 1871, provided by law for the appointment of a Board of State Commissioners for the general supervision of charitable, penal, pauper and reformatory institutions.

By virtue of this act, a Board consisting of Charles I. Walker, William B. Williams, and Henry W. Lord having been appointed, and each member having taken and filed the Constitutional oath of office, the members met at the city of Detroit on the 21st day of September, 1871, and organized by electing Charles I. Walker Chairman, and Charles M. Croswell Secretary. At a subsequent meeting a code of by-laws was adopted, and the Board entered actively upon the work assigned to it. The Commissioners have the general oversight of the State Prison, Reform School, House of Correction, State and county asylums for the insane, and the deaf, dumb, and blind, and of the county jails and county poor-

houses. Their powers are solely of a visitational character, and are limited to inspection, investigation, and practical suggestions. They, or a majority of them, with their Secretary, are required once in each year to visit the aforesaid State institutions, and within the same time, one of them, or their secretary, shall visit and examine into the condition of the county jails and county poor-houses. They are to ascertain and report the actual condition of the buildings, grounds, and other property thereunto belonging, with the government and discipline therein pursued, the method of instruction, the official conduct of the Superintendents or other officers or employes in charge thereof or connected therewith, and all other facts pertaining to the usefulness and proper management of such institutions, which may come to the knowledge of the Commissioners. For the purposes of this examination, they are entitled to have free access, at any and all times, to such institutions, and are authorized to examine, on oath, any person connected therewith. They are to report in writing to the Governor, on or before the first day of October, 1872, and in each second year thereafter, the result of their investigations, together with such recommendations as they may deem proper. If there shall come to their knowledge any abusive treatment of the inmates of such institutions, requiring immediate redress, they shall forthwith report the same to the Governor, and whenever the Governor shall require, shall make special investigation into any alleged abuses.

In addition to the before mentioned duties, they are required to collect and thoroughly examine all the penal and criminal laws of the State, and report the same, with such revision, amendments, and suggestions for the improvement thereof, as as they may deem necessary and expedient, to the Governor, on or before the first day of November, 1872. It will thus be seen that the Board has been created for the purpose of gathering facts and information in reference to the workings of the public institutions of the State, and of the amount of good

they are accomplishing, with the view of securing, if possible, a more uniform, efficient, and improved system of management thereof, and of promoting such reforms as shall most effectively conduce to diminish suffering and crime, and accomplish the greatest good results in the treatment of the dependent, diseased and criminal classes.

Although this commission has no power whatever to make any changes in the actual management or mode of conducting these State and county institutions, it may, by inspection, suggestion, and comparison, aid in making them more effective for the purposes for which they are designed. Thorough inspection—especially if the time that it will take place is not known—stimulates to greater watchfulness and care on the part of officials, and often points out and brings to light for correction defects that otherwise might have long remained uncared for and unnoticed. Comparison of our institutions with each other, and with similar ones elsewhere, enables us to profit by the wisdom and experience of others, and to appropriate whatever we may deem of value, and reject whatever we may regard as worthless in the results of labor elsewhere.

VISITATIONS.

During the present year this Board has repeatedly visited the several State Institutions placed under its general inspection, as well as the Detroit House of Correction; and within the same time the Secretary has visited nearly all the county jails and poor-houses in the State that could be conveniently reached. The results of these visits, with such suggestions and recommendations as to the Board seem important, are herewith submitted.

THE STATE INSTITUTIONS.

The public institutions of the State of Michigan are objects of just pride to her people, and most cheerfully have they provided for their support. Established upon a broad comprehensive scale, and wisely managed, they have attained

a completeness and success, alike creditable to the institutions and honorable to the State.

STATE PRISON.

This is the principal penal institution of the State, and is nearly as old as the State Government, having been established in 1839, only some three years after the admission of Michigan into the Federal Union.

Located at the city of Jackson, in the central part of the State, amid a net-work of railroads, it is convenient and easy of access. The prison grounds embrace some thirty acres of land within the corporate limits of the city, and the prison walls, which have recently been re-constructed in a good and substantial manner, enclose about ten and a half acres. These grounds are so situated that with little expense they might be much beautified by means of lawns, shrubbery, and shade trees. The whole number of convicts committed to the prison during the entire period of its existence is four thousand four hundred and twenty-four, and the number confined therein, at the present time, is five hundred and eighty-eight. Of these last, six are females convicted of high crimes, and sentenced to imprisonment for life, or for a long term of years. The small number of females is owing to the fact that nearly all, except those sentenced for life, have been, by provision of law, removed to the Detroit House of Correction.

The prison is conducted upon what is known as the congregate system, and the prisoners labor about an average of nine hours each week-day during the year, in work-shops within the enclosure. The principal business carried on is the manufacture of furniture, wagons, agricultural implements, cigars, boots and shoes. The labor of the convicts is let to contractors, who, at fixed periods, of which due notice is given, bid and compete for it. But contractors working the men always have the advantage, for they are established in business, own the machinery in the shops of the prison, and are so situated that

they virtually exclude competition. The result is that the labor is obtained at very low rates, especially when we remember that the use of the shops and grounds are given to the contractors without charge. The present rates paid for this labor range from forty-eight to seventy-six cents per day for each man. Tasks are assigned to many of the men which they accomplish before the close of working hours.

The remainder of the time they generally sit down and do nothing, instead of devoting it to extra work for their own benefit. There is a disposition to discourage over-work in the prison, the contractors insisting that ordinary work is frequently slighted in order to reach the over-work, and the Agent declaring that the additional work is prejudicial to the health of the convicts. Prisoners take their meals together, with the exception of supper, in a large dining-hall, in which are long tables, furnished with a plate, knife, fork, spoon and bowl for each. The dishes are of white crockery, and scrupulously clean. At night prisoners are locked up in separate cells. The whole number of cells is six hundred and forty-eight. They are built of stone, and are eight feet four inches long, three feet four inches wide, and seven feet high. They are poorly ventilated by flues, and dimly lighted by means of small openings in the grated doors, which are made of flat bars of iron crossing each other. The cell furniture consists of a cot bedstead, a bed of straw, and a pillow of like material; these, with blankets, sheets, and a pillow-case, constitute the bed and bedding, while a small stool, a bucket, and a comb make up the balance of the furniture. Some of the cells have been carpeted and ornamented with pictures in a very tasty manner by the convicts occupying them, thus showing that, even behind the bars, men still appreciate and enjoy order and beauty. The drainage of the prison is good, being mainly by large sewers, with a fair fall leading to the river. Through some blunder in constructing the building the first tier of cells was placed below the surface of the ground, and, as a conse-

quence, they have always been damp. It is hoped that when the contemplated additions to the prison shall be completed there will be no further occasion for the use of these damp cells. In our judgment the cells are too small. With the bed and the articles of furniture, few as they are, there is scarcely room left for the convict to turn around. The air must of necessity become impure, as it can hardly be changed by means of the flues as fast as bad air is generated, and confinement in such a tomb for the living borders too strongly on cruelty.

For the first time in its history, within a few years past, the prison has been made self-sustaining. It is a relief to tax-payers to understand that it can be so managed, as from its earnings to pay its current expenses, without any drain for this purpose on the Treasury of the State. In this result there is the additional satisfaction, that since its attainment improvements of a humane and ameliorating character, tending greatly to benefit the condition of the convicts, have steadily been made in the discipline of the prison. The power of kindness has been brought into more active operation, the character of punishments modified, and the number of them greatly lessened.

A system of rewards has been devised and partly put in effect, so that now, at the end of each month, the convict who has conformed to the rules of the prison receives a card, as evidence of good behavior. Officers say that it is astonishing to see how the men prize these cards, treasuring them up, or sending them away to their families; and that the effect of these little rewards is excellent in controlling the prisoners and stimulating them to good conduct. Again, some of the old features of prison life, tending to destroy the self-respect of the imprisoned have been removed, and the change seems to work well. Thus the rule requiring the men to labor with their eyes constantly upon their work has been modified, and there is no longer that down-cast, "hang-dog" expression which formerly seemed to be peculiar to such convict. There

has also been a greater infusion of educational agencies. An hour on each Sabbath is now devoted to secular instruction, and numbers of convicts who came into the prison unable to read or write, through the training of this school, have acquired these primary elements of education. Interesting lectures and readings are more frequent than formerly, and many of the men, stimulated by the desire thus created for good reading, have voluntarily given up the use of tobacco for the privilege of becoming regular subscribers to some one of our leading monthly magazines. Twice a week, after dinner, the agent selects and reads for fifteen minutes to the prisoners in the dining-hall, some interesting and instructive piece.

The general expression of those who have observed the effect of these readings is, that they are beneficial and should be continued. There were, however, some in charge, who said "that the reading of scientific pieces took up the time of the prisoners, made them feel above their business as convicts, and was detrimental to the general discipline of the prison. The gist of the objection was, that it infringed upon work hours, as though unremitting toil, and nothing else, would be of benefit to men in prison.

The prison continues the practice which it some years ago inaugurated of giving special privileges to its prisoners on public holidays. The custom is believed to be beneficial, making the convict more cheerful and impressing him with a conviction that an interest is still felt in his welfare.

An excellent dinner and short addresses constitute the order of the day on these occasions. A slight improvement has also been made in the dress of the inmates, the stripe in the clothing not being quite as distinct as formerly. We hope the time may soon come when all fantastical dress of this kind may be changed for a plain one of uniform color.

We cannot learn that the parti-colored dress has been of any assistance in the capture of escaped prisoners, and now, that the prison is made secure by the completion of its walls,

we trust that this badge of the clown, tending to unnecessary degradation, may be abolished.

Each time that the members of this Board have visited the prison they have found the halls, cells, and rooms tidy, clean, and sweet, without any of that unpleasant odor known as the "prison-smell." The prisoners generally look well, and have none of the haggard, sullen expression that indicates hard treatment. In some of the shops the keepers informed us that not a man had been reported for discipline for a long time. The food is excellent of its kind, the amount furnished sufficient, and the general management of the prison, so far as we can judge, humane and good.

While we thus bear witness to many marked improvements that have been made in the general management and conduct of the prison, adding to its efficiency and usefulness, we feel that many important changes are yet essential to make it what it should be.

There is in the general appearance of the prison a dingy, dirty, repulsive look, that in addition to the shabbiness of some of the buildings, gives it a peculiarly sullen, forbidding, and almost neglected air. There might be some apology for this if the influence was to make men dread the prison and keep out of it; but as the number of inmates are not lessened thereby, there is scarcely an excuse for such a dilapidated presentation.

The small female prison in the center of the yard is wholly unfit for the purpose to which it is devoted, and ought to be torn down, and other provision made for its inmates. Female prisoners ought never to be kept in the heart of a great prison—in the very midst of a large body of men.

A change for the better ought also to be made in the manner of caring for convicts who have become insane after their admission into the prison. There are ten such confined in separate cells in a building on the prison grounds, expressly built for such purpose. The cells are large, being eight feet

square and nine feet high. There seems, however, to be an insufficient number, as the Agent informed us that he has four or five men in prison, beside those confined here, whose condition is such that they ought to be placed in this department, but cannot for want of cell room. The inmates receive no treatment whatever for their malady, and are kept in constant confinement. When we remember that insanity sweeps away a knowledge of the difference between right and wrong and destroys all responsibility, while we admit that there is necessity for such restraint as shall secure the insane from harming themselves or others, we insist that it should be of a humane character, with the application of such remedies and treatment as may be likely to restore the mind to a sound condition. To punish a lunatic, even though he may be a criminal, is inhuman; and to confine him without proper care and treatment for cure is punishment.

Another great defect is the want of a proper school-room, a convenient chapel, and a comfortable hospital. These, with better facilities for washing and bathing, are pressing wants that we suppose will be supplied by the construction of the proposed additions.

If the few books pointed out to us constitute the "prison library," then it needs replenishing at once, for they were few in number, and in a miserable condition. A member of this Board declared that "the whole lot was not worth eighteen pence," and his valuation was not far out of the way. Good books impart knowledge, and, if they are of an interesting and entertaining character, must be of especial value to a prisoner, occupying his thoughts, diverting them from gloomy reflections, and beguiling the weary hours of confinement. We thought if the prisoners that we saw, who had finished their tasks and were sitting down demurely waiting for quitting time to come, had been supplied with books, many would have read them and relished them.

Some change should also be made in the future in contracts

for the labor of convicts, if the contract system is to be maintained, to the end that brief time may be allowed prisoners, during the week-days, for school purposes. Experience has already demonstrated the advantage of the school, which is now held only one hour in the week, and that on the Sabbath, and the eagerness with which many of the prisoners embrace this opportunity to acquire the first rudiments of an education, shows that they certainly ought to have more time and better facilities for this purpose.

In the large majority of the prisons of the United States secular instruction is imparted. In some, Saturday afternoon is appropriated to this purpose; in others, an hour in the afternoon of each week day, while others devote a short time in the fore part of the evening to this object. Prison officers, and others who have carefully observed the effect, declare that it is beneficial upon the convict and in the discipline of the prison.

The system of labor seems to us defective, in that the imprisoned, in too many instances, are kept constantly at a subdivision of work that will be of no especial advantage to them when they leave the prison. A man may learn to sew a seam in leather, or drive nails in the heel of a boot, but if kept continuously at this kind of work, he will never become a skillful boot or shoe-maker. When it is possible, especially in the case of long-time prisoners, a full trade should be taught, through which a man, when freed from prison, may be enabled to earn his living. Facts prove that with a good trade and a little education, a convict is rarely found serving a second term in prison, while if nothing is done to put him in the way of permanently maintaining himself he is almost sure to be returned.

In this connection we may add that there seems to be a necessity for some better system for caring for convicts of all classes after their discharge from our penal institutions. At present a prisoner is sent out from the State Prison with a suit of

plain clothes and five or ten dollars in money, to make his way through the world as best he can. With the odium of his imprisonment clinging to him, he finds it difficult to obtain work, and often, from want of a little encouragement, becomes the victim of old habits and relapses into crime.

Some organized systematic effort should be made to prevent such results. If we knew the history of the four thousand and upward who, during its existence, have gone out from this prison, we apprehend that we should find that many had failed to lead better lives because society turned the cold shoulder upon them, and repelled all their efforts to pursue an honest and industrious calling.

Massachusetts has a State agent, whose duty it is to specially look after convicts upon their discharge from prison, to assist them to obtain employment, and by encouragement and kind offices, to save them from falling into their former criminal practices; and some other States accomplish the same result through the agency of a prison association organized for that purpose.

We had supposed that some funeral services were usually held in chapel of the prison, over the remains of a deceased convict, but we are informed by the agent that nothing of the kind takes place. We suggest whether brief burial services, conducted in such cases, in the presence of all or a portion of the convicts, would not produce a good impression upon the men.

As the prison is quite likely during the coming year to be largely remodeled, may not the new arrangement be made in such manner as to provide for some general classification of the inmates? If a division was made whereby young criminals and first offenders, with others not hardened in crime, whose conduct gives assurance of a change for the better, were measurably removed from the contamination of intimate association with more depraved criminals, and had better opportunities for educational and moral training, would not the

effect enlarge the capacity of the prison for good, without materially increasing expense? We are informed by the agent that there are, in his opinion, many in the prison who are not bad at heart, but who have become criminals through the force of strong temptation, or surrounding circumstances. This division would place the class referred to under discipline best adapted to their wants, and at the same time would give them a fair opportunity to fit themselves for better lives.

DETROIT HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Although this is a municipal prison, owned and controlled by the city of Detroit, in which the State has no direct interest of ownership, it is nevertheless entitled to be ranked among the foremost of our State penal institutions, for the reason that it receives annually, from all parts of the State as well as from the city of Detroit, criminals convicted of misdemeanors, and forms one of the most important links in our whole prison system, being especially adapted for that class of offenders who ought not to be committed to the jails or to the State Penitentiary. Besides, this is the only prison that receives to any considerable extent the female convicts of the State. It has acquired an extended reputation, and is recognized throughout the country as a model institution of its kind. With a superintendent who has made the management of prisons not only a study but the practical business of years, devoting all his best energies to this work, he has made this prison in many respects a remarkable success. In the matter of finance the House of Correction has not only proved self-sustaining, but during its existence has earned one hundred and three thousand and four dollars and fifty cents (\$103,004 50) over and above its current expenses, a showing which but very few prisons, if any, can make.

Prisoners in this institution are principally employed in the manufacture of chairs and cigars. The contract system is not adopted. The superintendent purchases stock, causes it to be

made up, and when manufactured dispose of the goods. The gratifying exhibit of financial success made by this prison, is evidence that prison labor, in some instances at least, may be so managed by competent officers as to become a source of profit.

The discipline of this prison seems to us very simple. Obedience, order, and cleanliness are most strictly enforced. There are no grades in the male department, and none, unless it be a transfer to the House of Shelter, in the female department. Rewards for good conduct are used only to a very limited extent, the privilege of over wool, or a chair, or some other little article of cell furniture, being about the only stimulus of this kind given to the prisoners. The prison dress is not in use, and flogging with the lash, or otherwise, has been abolished.

As considerable complaint has been made with respect to the mode adopted here for disciplining offenders, it being insisted that what the Superintendent calls "treatment" is nothing less than a severe mode of punishment more cruel than the use of the lash, we have taken some pains to ascertain the method of discipline and the effect thereof. It must be apparent to every thoughtful person who visits this institution, that there is power, control, and the exercise of authority in every department, and that the directing power governing and controlling all with a firm and steady hand is the Superintendent. Convicts coming into the prison are quick to see and appreciate this, and are made to feel at once that they must conform to the rules, and yield implicit obedience to those in authority. They are not closely watched, but each, as far as possible, is placed in a great measure upon his own good behavior, and encouraged, through self-control, to so regulate his conduct as to restrain any tendency to disobedience or wrong doing. It is sought to teach convicts that they must govern themselves, and that the object of their imprisonment is to assist them to accomplish this purpose, in order that they may be better fitted for society and enabled more effectually to repel the inclination to vice.

If these considerations do not influence them to obedience and a correct deportment, any infraction of the rules meets with prompt and decisive action. The offender is ordered to his cell. If he refuses to go, or in any way or manner resists, force, if need be, to the whole extent of the power of the prison, is used to accomplish this end, even though the convict may have to be roughly handled or injured. Once in the cell, which is darkened, he is left there until passion subsides and reflection makes him feel and see the necessity for different conduct. When noisy and violent, such offenders, in addition to the confinement in the cell, are fettered and fastened to the wall. In the great majority of cases, in a very short time the prisoner sends for the Superintendent, confesses his wrong, and, promising obedience in the future, asks to be restored to his former privileges, which is almost invariably granted, after a few suggestions from the Superintendent, designed to show him the folly of his conduct, and warning him that his offense must not be repeated.

We think that in all cases of violence, where convicts have been severely handled, it will be found that there was a necessity therefor, growing out of a spirit of revolt and actual resistance on their part, which, if not promptly overcome, would have imperiled the lives of those in charge, and encouraged a spirit of insubordination throughout the prison. On one of the days of our visitation a prisoner refused to work, and drawing a large knife, which he had sharpened and concealed about his person, declared that he would use it upon any one who molested him. The Superintendent was called and he ordered him to his cell. He went there voluntarily; but it is plain to be seen that if he had refused to go, force must have been used sufficient to overcome any resistance that he might make, even though he were seriously injured thereby.

No cases of severe corporal punishment, of the use of such barbarous tortures as the gag, the yoke, the shower-bath, or of severe discipline, other than we have described, have come to

our knowledge in the course of this investigation ; and we believe it will be found that while prompt obedience is exacted, and the rules of the institution strictly enforced, that it is sought in all cases to accomplish these results through kindness, and mild, but decided discipline, and that in the instances where complaint has been made of personal injury, it has been the result of such resistance to the authority of the prison as it was absolutely necessary to overcome.

The manner of the Superintendent is pleasant, kind, and well adapted to impress a convict with the conviction that he has an interest and sympathy for him, with no desire to govern him in a stern or oppressive way. Prisoners who have been sent in disgrace to their cells are free to admit that they were in the wrong, and that their good and the good of the institution required that they should be thus disciplined, and that no part of the treatment had the effect to debase them, destroy their self respect or injure their persons.

The educational training which this institution gives to its inmates is one of its most distinguishing and excellent features, and cannot be too highly commended. In addition to a school held two and one-half hours each on two evenings of every week, there are writing schools for both men and women ; and every Saturday afternoon all the prisoners assemble in the chapel and listen to an appropriate and carefully prepared lecture. Of the effect of these increased educational advantages, the Superintendent says : " Since such a large proportion of the prisoners have been brought thus under systematic and efficient instruction, and have become so actively interested, a very different intellectual and moral atmosphere seems to be present throughout the whole institution. The prisoners are better workmen, better as relates to the discipline.

" Indeed, there is little need of discipline in the ordinary sense of that word as applied to prisoners. They are governed in their own inward life towards their companions, their

officers, toward society, and I trust towards God, by nobler sentiments, more reasonable reflections, and better self control. Is not this, as far as it goes, evidence of reformation ?

“ In view of the benefit of the school, it seems incredible that I should have spent more than twenty years in the management of prisoners, and never until 1868 have introduced this measure.”

We are well satisfied that the school, as well as the institution itself, is accomplishing a good work toward the reformation of those committed to its charge.

That branch of the institution, entirely separate from it, and known as the House of Shelter for Women, under the care of its accomplished and faithful directress, Miss Emma A. Hall, is deserving of a more extended notice than we have time or space to give it. Here, in a commodious and well-furnished home, provided with all the comforts and conveniences of a well-to-do family, we found some ten or a dozen wayward girls taken from bad influences, forming a little society of their own, and by industry, education and refining associations, fitting themselves for lives of respectability and usefulness. Each inmate is provided with an ordinary-sized bed-room, fitted with the furniture usually found in a room of this kind. They take their meals together at a table in the dining-hall, covered with a neat table-cloth and furnished with excellent table ware and napkins. Most of the day is devoted to work, mainly sewing and making linen coats and pantaloons. Singing, music on a parlor organ, evening school, readings, with a weekly evening gathering for conversation and social entertainment constitute the principal exercises. Culture of this kind, amid such surroundings, cannot fail to be productive of great good in preparing those who receive it for useful home life, and we cannot but regard the House of Shelter as one of the best agencies for saving those likely to fall that it has been our province to find.

The House of Correction is not without its defects. We think that the cells are too small, and on that account,

decidedly objectionable. Again, there is no dining-hall, and the prisoners take their meals separately in their cells, which seems to us cold, and not calculated to produce as good an influence on the prisoners as a well-ordered general table. Neither are we satisfied that it is a good arrangement to have large numbers of men and women confined within the same prison, no matter how vigilant the effort to keep them separate.

The success of this establishment seems, to us, not so much due to the adoption of any particular system for the government of its inmates, unless it be the extraordinary efforts in direction of education, as to the zeal and efficiency of the Superintendent. He is, emphatically, the head of the institution, and every department of it is pervaded with his enthusiasm and inspiration.

REFORM SCHOOL.

Soon after the organization of this board, serious charges of cruelty in discipline were made in the newspapers against the officers of the Reform School. An investigation of its affairs was ordered by the Governor, and a long and thorough examination took place, of parties who had been or were at that time connected with the School. The result exonerated the Superintendent from the charge of gross cruelty which had been made against him. There were, however, some features in the discipline and in the educational and other departments that seemed to require revision, in order that this institution might produce satisfactory results, and continue to meet the expectations of the public. These objectionable phases were kindly pointed out, the affairs of the School freely discussed, and such changes advised as to this Board seemed essential for the best welfare of said School. The report embodying these conclusions and suggestions is appended hereto, and we would respectfully renew the recommendations therein contained.

It is a matter of especial gratification that such changes have already been made, as it is hoped will improve the educa-

tional department, modify the discipline, and create that concert of action among the officers of the institution without which it cannot thrive.

A recent visit to the School satisfied us that in many respects it has already greatly improved. All the officers now seem to work harmoniously together, punishments are less frequent, and are not inflicted by subordinates as formerly. The mode of dealing with offenders has been greatly changed, confinement in a cell being substituted in most cases for the use of the lash. The new family house erected this season, and now progressing to completion, will make provision for a more complete classification of the boys. A movement, too, has been made in the direction of additional amusements; and although this is nothing but a pole on the play-ground for gymnastic exercises, it is, we hope, the beginning of a more extended provision for harmless diversions especially suited to boy life. The buildings have not been overlooked. Many of the dormitories have been renovated and ceiled anew on all sides,—the old rickety front steps and the worn out door-sills have given place to new ones, and various repairs have made the premises far more inviting and comfortable than they formerly were. The whole establishment is tidy and in good order, and, with 218 inmates, not one of whom is sick or in the hospital, all well clad, and seeming as cheerful and contented as could be expected under the restraint and confinement necessarily incident to their situation, we feel assured that they fare as well as they ever have, and that the school is establishing itself upon a broader and better basis, and with its increased facilities, will in the future produce more satisfactory results than ever before.

The most hopeful field of labor for the prevention of crime is among our juvenile population, and no pains should be spared in the use of all proper instrumentalities to keep them from the paths that go down to destruction. A good home, the acquisition of a trade, and a fair amount of schooling are

undoubtedly among the very best means for the accomplishment of this object, and public institutions for the training and reformation of children should constantly keep this end in view.

They should partake as little of the character of a prison as is possible, consistent with the safe keeping and discipline of the wards. The well regulated family is the true model, and institutional life should conform to it as far as practicable, dispensing as much as possible with bolts, bars, and prison features, and treating its inmates as neglected children, who need better care that they may be shielded from temptation and improper associations, and thus be provided with such a degree of practical intelligence and knowledge of work, as will enable them to become self-reliant and competent for self-control.

While the State stands in the position of *loco parentis* to the wayward little ones, it should see that these purposes are not thwarted, and opposite results accomplished. We are informed by one, long associated with our Reform School, that boys retained there for a great number of years become so accustomed to the institutional life, depending not upon themselves but upon the provision made for them, that they lose their self-independence, and go from thence without knowledge of a trade or skilled labor, and in a condition utterly unfit to care for themselves. We are still strongly impressed with the fact that boys, as a general thing, remain too long in the School, and that more efficient measures should be adopted to provide them with good homes in private families. In truth, the School should simply retain most of these boys until suitable places can be found for them elsewhere, where they may be taught useful trades and fitted to become good and industrious citizens. The very appearance of a necessity for the exercise of penal restraint and discipline over such children, should be avoided at the earliest practicable period, and they assigned to the supervision and care of private

families. With such watchful care does Massachusetts look after her wards that she has provided a State agent, whose especial business it is to see that good places are secured for such dependent children. In addition, the agent is required to visit them from time to time, and ascertain if they are well treated and kindly cared for.

There is another feature in this agency that seems to us deserving of consideration. No child can be sent to an institution of a penal character until a complete history of the case and a full understanding of the facts are laid before the State Agent, who then appears, if need be, even against the parents, in defense of the child. Thus it is only when the commission of criminal acts is clearly proved, and the tendency to crime demonstrated as absolutely certain, that a child can bear the taint of imprisonment in a penal institution. In not a few instances in our own State, parents and others having children in charge, for the purpose of ridding themselves of their support, manage upon some "trumped up" accusation to have them sent to the Reform School, and thus thrust upon the State the care and cost of their maintenance.

A visitor to our Reform School became interested in a boy twelve years of age, who had been committed for theft. Gaining the confidence of the lad, he was shocked to hear him declare that he hated his mother. The visitor told him that it was not right to speak thus of a parent, and called his attention to the commandment requiring him to honor his father and mother. With much agitation the boy replied that he could not love his mother, for she had wronged him and caused him to be shut up there when he was not to blame. A subsequent investigation of the case proved the boy's statements to be correct. The mother was carrying on an illicit intercourse with a paramour, and fearing discovery and exposure through the boy if he remained about the house, charged him with stealing from her, and took this means to get rid of him. Other instances of thus committing boys unjustly to this institution have also come to our knowledge.

Frequently, too, magistrates, without much investigation or thought, commit children to the School who ought not to go there. Some provision should be made to guard against this easy facility for putting a mark of crime upon unprotected and sometimes innocent children. In this connection we would suggest whether a parent, whose means are sufficient for the purpose, should not pay the cost of his child's maintenance in a State reformatory institution, when perhaps, through his agency the child is thus committed, he having by reason of his own vices been instrumental in leading his child into the ways of crime. As a general rule, the parent is held responsible for the maintenance and acts of his children, and we see no reason why he should not contribute to the support of his child, when, because of vices for which he may be largely responsible, it is committed to the custody of the State.

A REFORM SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Is much needed, and it has occurred to us that an admirable beginning for such an institution may be found in the House of Shelter at Detroit. With greater capacity, and provision for receiving and training little girls who are just entering upon a life of vice, its usefulness would be very much increased, and it made to admirably subserve all the ends of a reformatory of this character.

REFORM SCHOOL INVESTIGATION REPORT.

The following is the report on the Reform School investigation referred to on page 27 :

" To His Excellency, Henry P. Baldwin, Governor of the State of Michigan :

" In accordance with the instructions of your Excellency, the Board of State Commissioners for the general supervision of Charitable, Penal, Pauper and Reformatory Institutions, have at different times visited the Reform School at Lansing, and made such investigation of the general management thereof, and of the care and treatment of the inmates, as time and opportunity would allow. A large amount of testimony has been taken, especially with reference to the alleged cruelties which, for some time past, have been rumored to have taken place in the institution under its present management. This testimony is appended hereto for the examination and consideration of your Excellency.

" At the very threshold we were met with the statement that this examination was of a judicial character, in the nature of an ordinary trial. It was insisted by the members of the Board of Control, and the Superintendent of the School, that the hearing should be open and public, that they should be confronted with the witnesses, have the privilege of cross-examining them, and be permitted to resort to all the means usually employed by defendants in a court of justice, in the same manner as if charges were pending against them in a judicial tribunal. As the organic law of the State expressly provides that the judicial power shall be vested in its courts, and thus positively excludes any other department from the exercise of this power, it is clear that such an investigation could not be a judicial proceeding. Nor is it strictly analogous to a judicial trial, for there is no prosecution, no defendant, no power in this Board to adjudicate and determine the questions involved. Its power is limited to a mere investigation of the facts and

an expression of opinion thereon. It is an inquiry made for a collateral purpose—that is, to gather facts for the information of another. When this is done, its mission in the matter is at an end. The primary object of such an investigation is not to impeach or sustain individual character, but secure the State against official mismanagement; and there is nothing, that we are aware of, in precedent or practice, requiring it to be tied down by the strict technical rules that govern the proceedings of courts. Consequently, this Board felt that the examination should be conducted in such a manner as, in the judgment of its members, would best subserve the interests of the institution, and bring to their knowledge all the facts pertaining to the management thereof. It was thought that the examination had better not be an open one, because some of the testimony at least promised to be strongly prejudiced, and of such a character that its general publication might have a tendency to create a groundless impression against the institution; besides, the indications were that some of the evidence would be unfit for open publication on the ground of decency, and if thus spread abroad it would quite surely come to the knowledge of the boys of the School, and might be greatly prejudicial to the *morale* and discipline thereof.

“Again, many of the witnesses would be more likely to testify with greater freedom if examined privately and apart from the Superintendent. There were two classes of witnesses—one of whom consisted largely of parties who had formerly been connected with the School, and between whom and the Superintendent there had been personal difficulties of long standing on many matters pertaining to the government and affairs of the institution; and it was quite apparent that placing these parties face to face would have the effect to enable them to renew their quarrels and prolong the investigation, without eliciting any more facts than could be gathered from a private examination. The other class of witnesses was made up of persons then in the School, and largely under the influence

and control of the Superintendent. It might be an object for them to stand well with him, and, if so, they would not be likely to testify with the same freedom with his eye upon them that they would if untrammelled by his presence. These considerations led this Board to decide upon a private examination, and of the wisdom of that course it is well satisfied. When statements were made reflecting upon the management of the School, they were in substance communicated to the Superintendent, and the amplest opportunity given for denial or explanation. Free conferences were held with the Board of Control, and all such steps taken as would seem likely to secure a full, fair, and impartial examination without prejudice or injustice to any one.

“We are aware that it is no easy task to properly manage and govern several hundred wayward boys, many of whom have inherited tendencies to vice and crime, and most of whom have been brought up without cleanliness, order, and proper training, or under scarcely any of those restraints necessary to check their inclinations to mischief and wrong. The whole testimony demonstrates that many of these boys are shrewd adepts in the ways of wickedness, and that to govern them wisely and well requires tact, patience, fertility of resource, and more than ordinary ability. To win their confidence and sympathy, to train them to habits of neatness, industry, and order, and to inspire them with better purposes and nobler aims, is a work which can only be accomplished by slow and steady efforts, often repeated under most perplexing and trying difficulties. But in order to secure reformation there must be, in addition to sympathy and kindness, firm, steady discipline. Rules must be enforced, order maintained, and the authority of officers recognized and obeyed, if any good results whatever are to be accomplished. It is useless to think for a moment of conducting such an institution without a system of rules and regulations, and these must be enforced and obeyed, even though it be at the cost of bodily suffering and pain. It is

difficult, perhaps, to lay down any express rules for the punishment of boys in the institution. This we apprehend must be left largely to the discretion and good sense of the Superintendent, who ought to have a knowledge of the characteristics and peculiarities of each inmate, so as to judge correctly as to the manner and degree of punishment that should be inflicted for an offense, holding himself accountable for an abuse thereof.

"This naturally leads us to consider the character and kinds of punishment inflicted in the School, as shown by the testimony. We think it is clear that there has been no habitual system of cruelty practiced in the treatment of the inmates by the officers of the School. Still we must frankly say that there have been exceptional cases of unusual and extraordinary punishments, and of undue severity, which seem to us not only objectionable, but of such a character as to be injurious to the School and those connected therewith. To compel a boy who has pilfered a quantity of salt to eat thereof until his stomach revolts, and the dose operates as an emetic; to make another, who has caught a mouse, hold it in his mouth; and to compel a third, who had befouled his bed, to wear on his face a plaster of his own excrement in the presence of his school-fellows for an hour or more, are modes of punishment so unusual, and so revolting, that we apprehend they need only to be mentioned to be condemned. If a boy is filthy, it is no reason for punishing him in a filthy manner. If he is without self-respect, and in a great measure lost to shame, it will not improve him to lower the standard of punishment to his own level. The effort should be to improve, to elevate; and this certainly cannot be accomplished by measures which are coarse and degrading in their influence and effect. An eminent authority on this subject says: "There is no greater mistake in the whole compass of prison discipline, than the studied imposition of personal degradation as part and parcel of the punishment. The tendency of such degradation is to destroy every better impulse, to extinguish every worthy aspiration." We certainly

hope that punishments of this kind may never occur again within the institution, and we believe they will not, at any rate, under the present control; for no one seemed to express more regret that they should have happened than the Superintendent himself.

“From the evidence before us, we are inclined to think that punishments have been too frequent, and sometimes more severe than was proportioned to the offense committed, and this, too, to a great extent without the knowledge of the Superintendent. For years the rule requiring all punishments to be recorded was not observed, and during the same time another rule limiting the right to punish to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Principal Teacher was also disregarded, and subordinates as well as the officers designated by the rules often exercised this power. The result was that punishments were too frequent, and the discharge of this delicate and important duty too often fell into improper hands. Witnesses introduced by the Superintendent stated that in their opinion he was not at all aware of the extent of the chastisements that had been inflicted by officers and employes in the School, and upon being interrogated himself upon the subject, we found that he had no knowledge of some of the most flagrant of the punishments charged as acts of cruelty until long after they had transpired. As a matter of consequence, naturally resulting from entrusting so many with the power of correction, there appears to have been a great want of evenness and uniformity in the discipline. Boys were liable to be whipped just as hard as each of the subordinates might choose, and the manner of punishments for similar offenses varied too often according to the caprice of the person inflicting the same. While we do not conceive it to be within our present duty to discuss the question whether corporal punishment can be wholly, or almost wholly, dispensed with in conducting such an institution, we feel that we are correct in the statement that if used at all, it should only be as a last resort, when all milder measures have

failed to secure submission; and then it should always be inflicted either by, or in the presence and under the immediate direction of the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent, and a full record made thereof, with the reasons therefor. In this way it would be inflicted more wisely and much more rarely than it has been. We are glad to be able to state that measures have been adopted to hereafter keep a complete record of all the punishments, with the mode and manner thereof, and the cause of inflicting the same. And we hope that in the future, whenever it shall be found necessary to severely chastise an offender for his own good or for the good of the School, that it may be done by or under the direction of one of the principal officers, as prescribed by the by-laws for the government of the institution.

“We cannot speak in terms of too great praise of the management of the business department by the Superintendent. He is a man of great industry, loves work, has a supreme disgust for laziness, and infuses the same spirit throughout the establishment. The erection of new buildings, the cultivation and improvement of the farm, and the general conducting of the business affairs of the School, including the purchase of supplies and the keeping of accounts, have largely devolved upon him, and the testimony is uniform to his constant and unremitting care, and his untiring and successful efforts in this direction. Under his administration the boys have been better fed and better clothed than ever before. Additions to the building have been made, the grounds greatly beautified and improved, and a system of drainage adopted, whereby the general good health of the School has become remarkable. He has labored diligently to make the industry of the School as productive as possible, consistent with the welfare of the inmates, and seems to have managed all its business affairs prudently and well. In this work he has been most effectively aided and supported by the Board of Control, and especially by the member thereof resident at the Capital.

“One of the charges made against the management of the institution was, that the supplies therefor had been largely purchased of members of the Board of Control, and it was intimated that this position was being used in some instances for the pecuniary benefit of persons holding it. It will be seen from the testimony that some portion of the supplies were purchased by the Superintendent from members of the Board; but we are fully satisfied that no attempt whatever has been made by any member to influence this trade in his own direction, or to make money out of his position. But a small portion of the purchases of the School have thus been made, and the prices paid have in no instance been greater than would have been given to others. On the contrary, we are informed that in not a few instances they were less, for some of the supplies, though purchased in the name of a member of the Board, were in fact bought for the benefit of the School, and furnished to it at the actual cost thereof.

“But while no abuse whatever has been shown in this case, we feel that the precedent is an unsafe one, and ought not to be continued. No matter how fair such transactions may be, they are apt to be looked upon with suspicion, and to give cause for petty jealousies and severe comment. Under such circumstances some persons will insist that there is collusion between the Superintendent and the Board, and they are playing into each other's hands. Besides, a member sits in judgment upon his own account, and it leaves a door open which corrupt men, if any such should ever become members of the Board, might seek to use to their own advantage. Similar Boards, having control of other of our State institutions, are expressly prohibited by statute law from being interested in any contract, purchase or sale, for or on account of the institution they have in charge, and we think the provision a good one, and that it should be put into practical effect in every such Board. They would then be wholly free from all such suspicions or intimations of wrong.

"We find that the training department of the School has not been as successfully conducted as the business department. This, we apprehend, is due to the fact that the time of the Superintendent has been so necessarily and completely occupied with the business of the institution that he has not been able to give that attention to this department which its importance demands. The education and culture of the children committed to this institution seem to us of vital consequence in the great work of their reformation. In the ordinary course of events they are soon to be at large, and become members of society. If they are to be reclaimed from the downward course, and made honest and useful citizens, the result must be accomplished largely through the instrumentality of education. Ignorance and indolence are the parents of crime, and all statistics show that the majority of criminals are made so from these causes. Give a child something useful to do, interest him, discipline his mind and store it with pure thoughts, and you mould the character and lay the foundation for a good life. Now it seems to us that sufficient pains have not been taken to make the school interesting and its exercises attractive. Nearly all the witnesses who testified on this subject stated that the boys exceedingly disliked to be in school, and were always ready and anxious to leave it, even for work. We fear that the school exercises have been made too much a continuous, unvaried round of irksome duties, and not sufficiently spiced with familiar talks and illustrations, with encouragements, rewards, and incentives to awaken and stimulate the mind. Object lessons, pictures, and simple experiments do very much to make a school attractive. Children should not only be instructed but interested; and unless the mind is awakened and occupied, the school-room soon loses all charm and becomes a very dull place. The backward must be kindly encouraged, the diligent commended, and a desire and love for knowledge carefully inculcated, if the educational department is to be made a success. There should be a well devised system

of rewards as an encouragement to study and scholarship, and more faith on the part of teachers in the power to accomplish good results.

"We were constantly reminded that the boys were hard and incorrigible, that they had been sent there because they were very bad, and that as crime was bred in them, the chances were that they would be life-long criminals. Labor, especially in the mental and moral field, can scarcely be expected to be as earnest and effective as it might otherwise be, when the conviction once settles upon the mind of the worker that his efforts are to be fruitless. Facts and statistics demonstrate that the worst boys can be reformed, and a large proportion of the vilest children committed to this and to similar institutions have been saved. But energy and patience, backed by strong faith, are essential to the accomplishment of the work. While many of the teachers have undoubtedly been faithful and devoted to the interests of the school, there has been wanting the high tone, the healthful action, indispensable to make this department a complete success in the great work entrusted to it."

"The remedy for these defects we think should be:

"1st. An efficient, capable assistant, who would relieve the Superintendent of much of the detail work now thrown upon him, and enable him to give more thought and attention to the general management of the boys entrusted to his care, their work, their pastime, and their education.

"2d. There should be placed at the head of the educational department a proper and able man, with a warm heart and a cheerful disposition, of broad and thorough culture, who could wisely give direction and character to the moral and intellectual forces that should there be actively at work in the attempt to reform and elevate the inmates; and he should be supported by the active co-operation of a competent corps of teachers, inspired with a love for the work.

"In this respect there has been a marked deficiency; and

while we recognize the difficulty of fully meeting this need, and of readily getting competent persons for these positions, still we think the impediments might by effort be measurably overcome, and the training department of the school be placed on a much better basis. When we remember how largely the reclamation of these juvenile offenders depends upon the acquisition of useful knowledge, the formation of new habits, and the cultivation of the mind and the heart, through the instrumentality of the school, we are sure that no reasonable exertion should be spared to make this important agency as effective as possible. A large room, of the character of a lecture-room, where all the scholars in the different schools could come together and hear recitations, debates, and pleasant and familiar illustrations, and talks on useful and interesting topics, is, we think, a much needed addition to the school facilities.

"Then, to make this great State charity a complete success, a more perfect division of the boys is required. At present, aside from the separation of a few by means of the "family house," there is in fact no classification. Boys of all ages and kinds, good and bad, are mingled together. They work together, play together, and eat together. Now it is plain to be seen that this promiscuous association is a stumbling block to the progress of the School, a cause of much evil therein, and must in many instances have the effect to make criminals of those who should, through the influences surrounding them, be reclaimed from the error of their ways.

"There is a great difference in the character of the boys who come into the institution. Some of them are thoroughly vicious and bad, the offspring of thieves, robbers, and murderers, trained to crime and ready for any act of wickedness, whose reformation must be the slow work of patience and time.

"Others are there from an unfortunate train of circumstances. They are neglected, homeless children, who have been left to

make their way through the world as best they could, without care or attention. They are not bad from any innate tendency to wrong, but simply from force of circumstances. In some instances they have committed no serious offense, but, being wayward and hard to control, have been sent to the institution through the instrumentality of parents, guardians or officers, perhaps on a trumped-up charge, for the purpose of securing them a home, where they might be supported, trained, and cared for by the State. Thrown into intimate relations with older and more hardened boys, who, jeering at everything good, take pleasure in recounting their misdeeds and figuring as heroes of many a vile transaction, they are corrupted and contaminated, fall a prey to these bad influences, and actually go out of the School a great deal worse than they came into it. It is radically wrong for these boys to be permitted to freely mingle together, and thus give the more corrupt full opportunity to influence and pervert the less guilty. The State cannot afford to be instrumental in educating any portion of the youth thus committed to its charge for lives of sin and shame, and it should see that measures are speedily adopted which shall result in a more complete separation and classification of the boys in the school. This will be accomplished in some degree by the new "family house" proposed to be built during the coming season, for the occupancy of the smaller boys. And the evil might be further mitigated by provision for the removal to the Detroit House of Correction, or to some intermediate prison to be provided for first offenders and young criminals, of such incorrigible boys, verging on manhood, as give but slight promise of reformation, and are the chief cause of trouble in the establishment.

"We would also recommend that greater efforts be made to seek out and secure for these children, while they are still young, good places in suitable families, where they may be properly cared for, educated, and taught some useful trade or business. We are never to forget that all institutional life is

simply a necessary evil, and the great work is to prepare the child by moral cultivation, by the habit of industry, and the rudiments of learning, to find a better home and a fair beginning for life in a respectable Christian family.' Some practical method should be at once adopted looking to this end; for we are informed that there are good boys in the institution now who are kept there simply because they have no place to go to. We think much good might be accomplished in this line if it was made the business of some one connected with the School as a member of the Board of Control, or otherwise, to inform the public from time to time of the number of boys in the institution that are ready to be taken away, and that ought to be provided with homes in private families; and to actively seek out by correspondence, and by other means, persons suitable and willing to take and care for such children. The practice should not be to quietly wait until applications are made, but with energy to be busily on the alert to procure good places. A policy of this kind would seem to be a matter of economy to the Commonwealth as well as of benefit to the children; for it would greatly shorten the time that boys remain in the institution, and thus lessen to the State the cost of supporting them. It would also provide for maintaining by the State a more watchful care and oversight of boys sent out from the institution. Having assumed the right of the parent to bind them out during the period of minority, the State should not set them adrift without adopting proper measures to ascertain from time to time the situation, treatment, and progress of each. Her eye should be constantly upon them to see that they are not made by the act of indenture to suffer a course of cruel and unjust treatment. Again, through this instrumentality there might be obtained a much better knowledge of the final result of the School. An interest could be kept up in discharged boys, a more complete correspondence maintained with them, their subsequent history traced, and the effects of the institutional training in a reformatory point of

view upon their conduct and lives, clearly and satisfactorily shown. For these reasons we earnestly urge the adoption of some such system for the more effectual accomplishment of this object.

"Some provision should be made, either by the State or by organized voluntary effort, to assist boys, when released from the School, to get proper employment, and to encourage them to lead upright and useful lives. As it is they are discharged with simply a suit of clothes, and money sufficient to carry them to the place from whence they came, and often are thus thrust upon the world, without character, without friends and without a trade or means of support, to be suspected and shunned by most of the community, and fairly forced into the ways of iniquity in order to make a living.

"Upon a full review of the evidence, we are of the opinion, taking into consideration the want of proper facilities for separating and classifying the inmates, and excepting perhaps the educational department, that the general management of the institution has been prudent, wise, and good. We are satisfied that the Superintendent is in many respects well qualified for the position that he holds, and while we cannot approve of the character of some of his punishments, or of the large liberty he has given subordinates to punish, we are of opinion that the evidence against him does not justify and establish the charge of extreme cruelty sought to be proved in his conduct toward the boys of the School.

"We have thus carefully considered the whole subject, and have freely and frankly pointed out such mistakes and defects in the discipline and management of the School as seemed to us to require notice. In coming to the conclusions that we have, we have been governed by a sense of the responsibility resting upon us to do impartial justice to all parties concerned, and to promote the interests and advance the welfare of one of the noblest of our State charities."

JAILS.

The State of Michigan is subdivided into seventy counties, and has within its limits some fifty jails, or one to nearly every county in the State. These jails contain an average population of about three hundred persons, and for their superintendence and care constantly employ a force throughout the State numbering in the vicinity of one hundred and fifty persons. In construction and appearance but very few of them are alike. They vary from the cheap log-pen to expensive, showy, and imposing edifices, some costing less than one hundred dollars, while the expense of others swell up to fifty or sixty thousand. The estimated total value of jail property in the State is in the vicinity of four hundred thousand dollars, and the annual cost of their maintenance may be safely estimated at fifty thousand dollars. In the majority of them the security and safe keeping of prisoners seems to have been the principal object in their construction, yet most are insecure for the detention of skillful and dangerous criminals.

Breaking jail is of frequent occurrence, and without a great deal of watching, the adroit rogue is quite sure, through some defect in material or construction, to find his way out. In the general arrangement of the interior but little regard is paid to the comfort of the inmate. A small cell, destitute of furniture or decent bedding, fronting on a hall or corridor five or six feet in width, without much light or proper means of ventilation, and so constructed as to deprive the occupant of a full supply of that necessity to health,—pure air,—constitutes the apartment generally provided for a prisoner. In some of them two, and even three, persons are lodged in bunks, one above the other. The air in these cells, as was the case in the Wayne county jail at the time of our visit there, is frequently foul from the odors of the privy, and the supply of light in many of them is so insufficient, as the Jackson county jail well

illustrates, that those confined therein can only with difficulty see to read in the day-time. In some of the jails prisoners are locked up in these cells all the time, but in most of them they mingle together promiscuously in the corridor during the day, and are only locked in separate cells at night. These cells are sometimes damp and musty, the lower floor consisting of large, flat flag-stones, laid in mason-work upon the surface of the ground in such a manner as to gather dampness and mould.

In our visit to the Marquette jail we found water standing on the floor of the cells, in some instances two inches deep. To avoid the water and the dampness, such of the inmates as were permitted to be out in the corridor had taken their beds and placed them on the top of the cells, of which there was but one tier, with a large level space on the top.

Prisoners have no work, no instruction, nothing to do but to amuse themselves as best they can. Here are to be found in intimate association the old offender and the wayward youth, the former relating his exploits, glorying in his crimes, and inspiring the latter with a desire for similar adventures.

The novice is thus made familiar with the "tricks of the trade," and goes forth prepared to operate with all the skill of the accomplished rascal, save experience.

In the best and most expensive jails, as well as in the poorest, this association is of daily occurrence. In the one recently constructed in Kent county, the most costly of any in the State, complete with all modern improvements, during the present year, we have witnessed wayward little girls caged up with notorious prostitutes, and truant boys made the companions of degraded and desperate characters. In the very nature of things, imprisonment without labor, and the unrestrained association of offenders of different grades, must have the effect to increase rather than diminish the number of criminals.

While we found most of the jails tolerably clean, some of

them scrupulously so, the keepers even causing the floors to be scrubbed daily, and the walls to be whitewashed as often as once a month, there were others that were in a filthy condition—dirt, vermin, and disorder reigning supreme. Scarcely any have bathing facilities, and in some water for the ordinary purpose of washing the hands and face is not always to be had. The food provided for prisoners in different counties is varied. In some the supply is abundant, and consists of the same articles as are served at the jailor's table. In others, tea, coffee, butter, and like articles of food are regarded as luxuries, and not allowed; the bill of fare consisting of a uniform allowance of bread, with gravy, for breakfast, with the addition of meat for dinner, and mush and milk only for supper. In not a few of the jails the prisoners are required to wash and iron their under-garments or go without clean clothes, the Board of Supervisors making, as the officers say, no provision for compensating the jailor for such work. The result is shown in the statement made by one in charge of the Saginaw county jail, that prisoners there had gone for months without clean shirts. It is at least quite reasonable to suppose that they would do so, as the facilities for washing are usually not very good or handy in such places. The effect of confinement under these circumstances is to make men filthy, beastly, and degraded.

Persons violently insane may frequently be found in our jails for the want of other places for their safe keeping, and in some of them there is no provision for a separation of the sexes.

Witnesses and debtors, guilty of no crime whatever, are sometimes for months shut up with the vilest felons, and the innocent and guilty are thus mixed together.

Instead of presuming every man innocent until he is duly tried and his guilt proven, the manner of treating men in jail who are awaiting trial seems to presume them guilty and sent to the jail for punishment instead of for detention. A large

proportion of those committed to jail are, on examination or trial, acquitted, and thus innocent men, merely suspected of crime, are thrown into these jails, and caged and cared for in a manner not much better than though they were brutes.

These statements briefly present the true condition of many of our jails, and we think an examination of them must satisfy any fair-minded man that, as generally conducted, they are simply training-schools to make adepts in crime. We have yet to learn of a single instance where a person has been bettered or reformed by a committal to jail, while, on the other hand, we can point to numbers who, we believe, have been made worse thereby.

A change in this department of our penal system is absolutely required. The public should not maintain schools for educating men in crime, therefore the pernicious practice of sending those convicted of slight offenses to the county jail ought to be discouraged and the use of jails as places of punishment wholly abolished. Instead of burdening the public to support the petty offender in idleness, he should be put where he can have steady work and be made to earn his own living. Subjected to such humanizing discipline, he might be saved from a life of crime, while a schooling like that of the jail is almost sure to prove his ruin.

The jails cannot well be made reformatory institutions; the changes that are constantly taking place in their population, the difficulty of organizing any profitable system of labor therein, and the want of teachers and facilities for imparting mental and moral instruction, make this quite out of the question.

INTERMEDIATE PRISONS.

We are convinced that jails should only be houses of detention to receive the accused until tried or otherwise disposed of, and that intermediate prisons or work-houses, located in different parts of the State, should be created to receive all offenders

who by law are now committed for punishment to the county jail.

Intermediate prisons are desirable, because a system of labor can be provided therein and the convict trained to industry, which, as we have seen, cannot be done in the jails. They would furnish educational, moral, and religious advantages, which the jails cannot. They would be reformatory in character, tending to shield and save such as the jails ruin. They would greatly reduce the expense of maintaining prisoners, whose daily earnings would then go far toward their support. The work-houses would be few in number and might pay their way, but the jails are numerous and expensive, some of them costly,—they earn nothing, and are a constant bill of of expense. A single illustration will serve to show the difference. While not a jail in the State reports a dollar received from the avails of labor performed by prisoners, the annual reports of the Detroit House of Correction show that that institution has not only paid its way, but has actually earned over its current expenses for the keeping and custody of prisoners a surplus of more than ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars a year for the ten years of its existence. But even though they cost more, these prisons in the end would be cheaper than the jails. When we remember the losses that the community annually suffer by reason of crime, and the power of a criminal to damage and destroy property, the act of the incendiary, in a single night, converting millions of value into ashes, we are constrained to say that any system that tends to keep men from becoming criminals is cheap, and so any that produces the opposite result is dear. Such intermediate prisons introduced in our penal system would relieve the jails of a large proportion of their idle inmates who, under the influence and association incident to such confinement, are daily going from bad to worse, and would put them where they might earn their way, and receive discipline and instruction calculated to reform them and convert them into useful and virtuous citizens. In addition

thereto, these prisons might receive from the Reform School a class of large boys whose influence there is decidedly vicious and bad, and who ought not to be suffered to remain in contact with the younger lads. They would also enable us to transfer from the State Prison young criminals and first offenders, who require a different discipline from hardened criminals, and should not be kept in close proximity with them.

The creation of these prisons would provide for a more perfect classification of offenders. Nothing in prison life is more unwise and productive of greater injury to the beginner in crime than continued association with old and skilled criminals. Mingling together within the walls of the same prison, despite the utmost vigilance of officers, opportunities will be found for communication and conference, and through these means the influence of the more corrupt operate in a great measure to undermine and overcome all efforts at reformation.

The mind of the young is more impressible and easier influenced than in maturer years. Keep this class from the taint of communion with those who have become thoroughly schooled in vice, and you cut off a great source of crime, and save many who must otherwise go to ruin. Besides, these prisons would serve to keep the number of inmates in the State Prison reduced to a point within the working capacity of that institution. Men experienced in the administration of prisons are generally of the opinion that they should not contain great numbers, or be crowded. Those of a moderate size, where the character of each inmate can be studied and thoroughly understood, are universally pronounced the best. In another point of view, this subject deserves serious consideration. We have at the present time no

REFORMATORY PRISON FOR FEMALES,

and it is a question whether provision should not be made for a prison exclusively for women. An institution of this kind, placed largely under the control and care of judicious and

capable officers of the same sex, and made especially applicable to the reclamation and reformation of criminal and fallen women, is a necessity for which provision may soon have to be made. Where the sexes are confined together in one prison, there are constant efforts to communicate, and the utmost vigilance is required to prevent it, and even this is not always successful. Again, male employees mingle with female prisoners, are frequently suspected of improprieties, and are apt to have stories circulated about them that tend to demoralize discipline, and destroy the influence of a prison for good.

While we are not prepared to advise the immediate construction of such a prison, and refrain from making a recommendation to that effect at the present time, it is nevertheless a want that may soon have to be supplied, and presents another reason for a system of intermediate prisons such as we have suggested.

SIMILAR BOARDS IN ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN DECLARE FOR INTERMEDIATE PRISONS.

We are not alone in the views here expressed, in reference to the punishment of prisoners by confinement in jail, and the necessity for intermediate prisons, as the following declaration, adopted at a meeting of the Illinois State Board of Public Charities, the Wisconsin State Board of Charities and Reform, and the Michigan State Board for the Supervision of Charitable, Penal, and Reformatory Institutions, held in the city of Chicago, on Tuesday the 14th day of May, 1872, will show:

“The object of the imprisonment of criminals is conceded by all to be two-fold: the protection of society and the criminal himself. The protection of society is effected in part by segregation of the offender, and in part by the deterrent influence of punishment upon others who are tempted to commit crime.

“A minute and careful examination of the jails of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan by kindred commissions specially appointed for this pur-

pose, reveals the fact that, as proper places of punishment, they fail to accomplish the object of their creation. They are for the most part defective in a sanitary point of view; many of them are insecure; they are frequently so constructed as to compel the promiscuous association of the young and the old, the guilty and the innocent, the hardened villain and the novice in crime, and in some cases even of the sexes. In none of them is there provision for the employment of the imprisoned inmates; and there are few in which any attempt is made either for their intellectual or moral culture. In the aggregate they cost large sums of money for their construction, and are a great annual expense to the community, without adequate return for this expenditure. The finest and most costly of them all, however superior in architectural construction, exerts as little reformatory effect as the poorest. Their condemnation may be pronounced in a single sentence: They are an absurd attempt to cure crime, the offspring of idleness, by making idleness compulsory. The failure of the jails is due, not to the character of the officers who have charge of them, but to this radical defect in the jail system itself, which originated in the primitive condition of our national history, and was then the only thing possible. It has been blindly copied and extended with the growth of the country, in consequence of the difficulty of effecting any change after the investment of so much money.

"We are satisfied that for enforced idleness the State should substitute enforced labor. We are also satisfied that no remunerative system of labor can be introduced into county jails on account of the very limited number of prisoners in each. The only remedy for the evils of the present system consists in the substitution of houses of correction in their stead. The county jails should be remodeled, and simply used as houses of detention. One or two prisons in each State, of a character intermediate between the jail and the penitentiary, might be so organized and conducted as to diminish the cost of crime, and to diminish its amount. The cost of original construction would be diminished by the substitution of a single capacious edifice for fifty or sixty similar ones. The cost of maintenance of criminals would be diminished by the aggregate amount of their earnings, while enforced labor would benefit the criminal himself and exert an increased deterrent influence upon the criminal class at large. The modern facilities for transportation of criminals by rail remove to a great extent the objection arising from distance.

"We believe the time has come for an earnest effort to call public attention to this subject, and to prepare the way for a great public reform. In this effort we invoke the aid of all philanthropists, believing that no one who has seen what we have seen can fail to adopt the conclusions which have been enforced upon our own minds."

STATE SCHOOL FOR NEGLECTED AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

By an act of the Legislature, approved April 17, 1871, provision was made for the establishment of a State Public School for neglected and dependent children. Commissions, empowered to receive proposals for a site and locate and construct necessary buildings, were appointed, and thirty thousand (\$30,000) dollars appropriated from the State Treasury to carry on the work. The Board advertised for bids for the location of the School, and several places in the State competed for it.

The proposition of the city of Coldwater to pay twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars in cash, and to donate twenty-seven acres of suitable ground for the site was finally accepted, and the school established there. A plan has been matured, and the contract for the construction of the buildings let. The location is in an inviting, healthy, and accessible portion of the State, and it is hoped that the School may soon be in active operation.

This grand public charity is an outgrowth resulting from the investigation made by the special commissioners appointed in 1869, to examine the State penal and reformatory institutions, and county poor-houses and jails. These special commissioners found no less than two hundred and twelve children under sixteen years of age, in the poor-houses of this State, and they urged the "establishment of a State Primary School, where these children and others who swarm in the streets, prowl about docks and wharfs, and are almost sure to take up crime as a trade; orphans who have no one to provide or care for them, and all vagrant and abandoned children, could be gathered and receive mental, moral, and industrial training, and from which they might at length be sent out to situations in the country or elsewhere, where they would grow up into virtuous and useful citizens."

It is proposed, in the construction of the buildings, to pro-

vide for the family system exclusively ; that is, to erect several small houses so that the inmates may be separated and classified as shall seem for their best interest, with a large building for school and industrial purposes. It is not intended to place children in this institution for a permanent home, but simply to maintain and educate them there during the period of helplessness, in an atmosphere healthy and good, until proper places can be secured for them, in order that they may not grow up under the corrupting influences of the street, or amid the debasement of the poor-house.

The establishment of this institution seems to us a step eminently in the right direction for the prevention of crime. It is from this class of children that our jails and prisons are constantly receiving fresh recruits. Their surroundings and circumstances, if uncared for, naturally crowd them into the ways of crime, and efforts in this direction strike at the very root of the evil.

PENAL SYSTEM.

The preventive and penal system for the repression of crime suggested in this report, may be summed up in brief, as follows:

First. Prevention of the increase of criminals, by provision, through a State institution, for the training and education of truant, vagrant, and dependent children ; they being the great source from whence crime draws recruits to its ranks.

Second. The Reform School for juveniles of tender years, who have actually committed crime, and whose guilt shall have been duly proven.

Third. The jail to be used for the detention of prisoners, arrested and charged with the commission of crime, until they shall be tried ; and for the safe keeping of such as have been tried and found guilty, until they can be conveyed to the place of punishment ; such confinement to be separate and in large

cells or apartments; without the privations imposed upon adjudged criminals.

Fourth. Intermediate prisons or work-houses, for persons convicted of minor offenses or of grave charges, who give hope of reformation; such prisons to be provided with industrial, educational, and moral advantages.

Fifth. The State Prison for confirmed or dangerous criminals, administered firmly, but with the reformation, as well as the punishment, of the prisoner in view.

Sixth. Aid to assist discharged convicts, and boys liberated from the Reform School, to obtain employment and good places to work.

CENTRAL BOARD.

In order that there may be perfect unity of action; each part of the system working in harmony with the rest for the accomplishment of the most successful results, we deem it of great importance that there should be a central governing power, charged with the oversight and general management of all the penal institutions of the State and with the control of prisoners of every class. This is essential for the purpose of obtaining uniformity in the system. At present there are no two jails or prisons within the limits of the State alike in scarcely any respect. Each runs on its "own hook," with just such a system as it may see fit to adopt, whether good or bad. One pays no attention to another, and their operations are all different. They often run until they become an abomination to the community, and are declared a public nuisance by grand juries and judicial tribunals. One is expensive; the other is cheap. One feeds its inmates too well; the other half starves them. One is clean; the other is filthy. One permits unchecked association; the other imprisons separately in miserable cells. Thus apparently unconscious of their deficiencies, and needs, these institutions often go on from year to year, increasing, rather than diminishing, the number of criminals.

A judicious and impartial Board, prepared by careful observation and thorough study to judge correctly of the place that each prison should fill in the general system, and of its needs in order to successfully fill such place; clearly scrutinizing its whole administration and pointing out its defects, could not fail to be an improvement on the present diverse management. Each prison would then be carefully compared with others, its deficiencies rejected, its excellencies retained, and it made to correspond with the best models, and order, improvement, and economy, we believe, would mark the result.

For the accomplishment of these purposes, in a wise and satisfactory manner, such a board should have enlarged powers. It should be executive in character, and able to act as well as to suggest. It should have power to transfer and assign convicted prisoners of all grades from one prison to another, just as would best facilitate the reformation of the prisoner and subserve the good of the prison. It is well understood that there are, in nearly every penal prison of any importance in the State, prisoners who ought not to be there, but who should be removed and placed in other prisons of a different character and grade. The petty offender, convicted and sent for a term of days to enforced idleness in the jail, should be transferred to the work-house. The incorrigible boy of considerable age in the Reform School, instead of being left to corrupt all with whom he associates, should be removed to a place better adapted to restrain his vicious tendencies. And so of criminals of all classes, who from want of self-government, have committed offenses which have resulted in depriving them of their liberty and placing them in charge and under control of the State, should be put in a grade of prison which, under the circumstances, will be best fitted to their condition, and most effectual to deter them from repeating their offense, and at the same time reform them.

SENTENCES.

The average length of sentences in the State Prison of this State is about three years. It is moderate compared with the average term of such imprisonment in other States. The officers of the Prison express the opinion that in the majority of cases it is full long enough, and that if any change is made, it should be lessened rather than increased. They estimate that eight or ten years of continuous imprisonment is quite sure to break down the constitution of a vigorous man, and are decided in the expression that a shorter term of punishment with certainty that the sentence will be carried out, would be quite as effective for the purposes of punishment and of reformation, as a much longer period. There is a great disparity in the time for which prisoners are sentenced for similar offenses—one judge sending a man twice as long as another for the commission of the same grade of crime. Some of the sentences are quite peculiar in their way, and show that judges are sometimes moved by the impulse of the moment in fixing them. Thus one convict was sentenced to the Prison until he should reach the age of three score and ten years, and another had two years added to the term of his incarceration for speaking impertinently to the judge, after the imposition of the sentence.

But while it is admitted that the time of imprisonment of convicts in the State Prison is, on the average, quite as long as it ought to be, the brief term of sentence to the county jail or House of Correction, usually imposed on petty offenders, is regarded as altogether useless for the purposes of punishment or reformation. This is especially the case where this kind of punishment is repeated. Once sent to prison, the culprit incurs the disgrace incident to it; loses a measure of self-respect, and becomes hardened. A short term of imprisonment is a terror to him no longer, and produces no effect to deter him from the repetition of his offense. There is no time for reformation, for no one would presume or suppose that an

imprisonment of thirty or sixty days can have the effect to change habits or practices which have become quite well established and must be overcome and rooted out before there can be any permanent change. It gives no opportunities for discipline by means of regular, systematic labor; and this is essential to any permanent improvement. Besides, these oft repeated short sentences are expensive. We have recently had a prisoner pointed out to us who has been committed some seventeen times for offenses of like character, the term of imprisonment in each instance varying from thirty to sixty days. The expense of thus arresting and trying him seventeen times must have been considerable, and the effect of his punishment in each instance was to do him no good whatever. If he had been committed for a long time at first, and placed under proper discipline, he might have been greatly benefited and the public saved needless expense.

It is believed by many persons who have given much thought and attention to this question, that the evils herein suggested would be remedied, and the reformation of prisoners promoted, by a system of sentences indeterminate as to time, leaving the question of the discharge from imprisonment to depend upon the character and conduct of the prisoner and the circumstances connected with his offense; this to be passed upon by a board wisely constructed for the purpose. But this question we submit to the wisdom of the Legislature without expressing any opinion thereon, or making any recommendation whatever.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

This institution is organized upon what is known as the congregate close asylum system, and sustains the reputation of being one of the foremost of institutions of this kind.

It is, at the present time, crowded with patients, while others are daily pressing for admission.

At the last regular session of the Legislature an appropriation was made for the construction of additional buildings,

and they are now in progress of erection, a part being nearly, if not quite completed.

The new buildings are plain, but substantial, are in good proportion and excellent taste, and reflect great credit upon the Superintendent, who, in addition to the discharge of his other duties, has planned and designed them, thus saving to the State the large expense which must necessarily have been incurred in procuring the services of a practical architect.

We have, in a general way, made some investigation into the conduct, discipline, and internal arrangement of this institution, and the result has satisfied us that in its superintendence, sanitary condition, and management, it is in a most excellent and healthy state, and deserving of great commendation. Established on a broad and comprehensive scale, with system, order, and fitness in all its appointments, it is accomplishing a noble work in the relief of that most terrible of all maladies, "a diseased mind."

If we should venture to make a suggestion of what seemed to us a defect in the arrangement of this institution, it would be the want of a system of light labor for such of the inmates as might, without injury to themselves, engage in some useful toil. Those familiar with the treatment of insanity regard proper occupation as one of the best means for cure, and the able Superintendent of this institution, in his report for 1871, says: "Comparatively few of our institutions are adequately supplied with the means and appliances for the diversion and recreation of patients, *and for providing occupation adapted to the feeble organization of one class, the morbid activity of another, and the restlessness of almost all.*" In view of these facts we hope that some arrangement for better provision in this respect may be made at an early day.

FURTHER PROVISION FOR THE INSANE.

It seems to us of the utmost importance that steps should be speedily taken for the erection of another institution for

the benefit and treatment of the insane. By the last census we have in the State of Michigan 1,183 insane persons.

This enumeration probably falls a considerable short of the actual number, owing to the fact that the insanity of many who are supported by their own means is concealed, as far as possible, from public notice by their families and friends. Taking into consideration this fact, and the natural increase of our population since the last census was taken, it is no doubt within the bounds of strict truth to estimate that we have at this time, within the State, not less than 1,300 inhabitants afflicted with this terrible malady. Of this large number only about 300 are provided with treatment in the Asylum at Kalamazoo; and with the completion of the additional buildings, now in process of construction there, the total capacity of that institution will not exceed 550, leaving 750 of these unfortunates without any provision whatever for treatment. If we admit that full one-half of this number are chronic insane, harmless and quiet, whose friends would not permit them to be removed to an Asylum, even if ample provision was made for them, an admission which we apprehend greatly over-estimates the number of this class; we still have, with the Kalamazoo Asylum wholly completed, 375 unprovided for. It is certainly safe to say that the most, if not all, of this number require care and treatment. More than one-half of them are in the poor-houses and jails of the State, and the remainder are among their friends.

The condition of those in the county poor-houses and jails is in the main wretched in the extreme. They are without proper medical treatment, as but few physicians in ordinary practice throughout the country, profess to be skilled in the treatment of this disease.

They are generally confined in miserable cells, without decent provision for their wants, especially when they are excited and violent. In many cases they are chained in pens, without light or ventilation. In the Eaton county poor-house we

found a woman violently insane, fastened in a pen of this kind, made in one corner of the cellar. She was put there, not from inhumanity on the part of the officers, but because they had no other place to keep her. They are often whipped and punished by incompetent keepers. In the Lenawee county poor-house a crazy young man was for some time regularly flogged as a punishment for being filthy. They are so situated that the female portion are frequently outraged by vile men. In the St. Clair county poor-house there is an insane woman who, during a residence there of four years, has given birth to two children, each born at a different time, and both begotten in the institution. They are often noisy, irritable, and excited, and disturb the quiet and peace of all about them. Superintendents and keepers constantly beset us to know when the asylum will be open to receive these crazy persons; and yet, without the creation of a new one, there is no prospect whatever that they can be relieved, as the additional room in the present asylum will be filled as soon as ready for occupation by those now pressing for admission there. If it is the duty of the State to provide for the treatment of the insane, then in fairness and justness it should provide for the treatment of all who require it, as well as for a part. In the language of Dr. Kirkbride, "We do not believe that any government has the right to say to one family, we will take care of your afflicted one, and say to another, we will not take care of yours, simply because one is a more recent case than the other. If we undertake to provide for a part of the insane, we are bound to provide for all. One family has just as good a right to claim the bounty of the State as another."

Asylums should not be crowded. Crowding lessens the chances for recovery of those already there, and every patient that is taken in excess of the capacity of the institution must, of necessity, prove an injury to some of the occupants. Therefore, the good of those in the asylum demands that provision should be made for those on the outside. The present asylum

is full to overflowing, and will be when completed; yet there are hundreds who must be denied admission. How long are they to wait? Time is of the greatest importance in the treatment of insanity. It is shown in the fact that of those promptly treated at asylums when first attacked, and in the early stages of the disease, about 75 per cent recover and are completely cured; while of those who are kept at home without such treatment in the first development of this subtle disease, only about 30 per cent are ever cured. Again, provision for speedy treatment in such cases is a matter of economy; for if the disease runs until it becomes chronic, the chance is that the patient must be maintained through life, and besides the loss of his time and labor, and the expense of his maintenance, it will take one or more persons to take care of him. But this drain upon industry is only a fraction of the trouble. It produces affliction and mourning worse than death; "for every lunatic is dear to one or more persons, and must be a constant source of care and sorrow."

It is clear, then, that further provision should be made for our insane. How shall it be accomplished? It cannot well be done through new additions to the present Asylum, for it is the general testimony of men of experience and wisdom, who have given the subject careful consideration, that no Asylum, under any circumstances, should contain more than from four to five hundred patients.

The English Commissioners of Lunacy, speaking of large Asylums, say: "They forfeit the advantage which nothing can replace, whether in general management or the treatment of disease, of individual and responsible supervision. To the cure and alleviation of insanity few aids are so important as those which may be derived from vigilant observation of individual peculiarities; but where the patients are so numerous that no medical officer can bring them within the range of his personal examination and judgment, such opportunities are altogether lost; and amid the workings of a great machine, the

physician, as well as the patient, loses his individuality. When to this is also added what experience has of late years shown,—that the absence of a single and undivided responsibility is equally injurious to the general management, and the rate of maintenance for the patient in the large buildings has a tendency to run higher than in buildings of a smaller size, it would seem as if the only tenable plea for erecting them ought to be abandoned. To the patients, undoubtedly, they bring no corresponding benefit. The more extended they are, the more abridged become their means of cure.”

The best authorities in Europe and the United States have placed the limit at from two hundred and fifty to five hundred.

Dr. E. T. Wilkins, Commissioner of Lunacy for the State of California, who in 1871 visited 149 insane asylums in Europe and America, says: “Our observations of the practical workings of asylums of all sizes, compels the conviction that all things taken into consideration, the smaller number—two hundred and fifty—is the best; and that under no circumstances should this number be exceeded under one roof.”

The same opinion was expressed by the special Commissioners of this State, appointed in 1869, to examine penal, charitable, and reformatory institutions. They say the objection to the enlargement of the Asylum is “that the number of inmates would then be too large to be successfully and profitably treated by one man, who we conceive should have close supervision of all the affairs of the institution, in order to insure the most beneficial results financially and otherwise.”

But there is another objection to increasing the capacity of the Asylum. People will avail themselves of the benefit of such an institution somewhat in proportion as they are near or remote from it. The difficulty, trouble, and oftentimes danger, as well as expense of long journeys with such insane patients, and their separation at a great distance from their families and friends, has the effect to keep many who should receive prompt attention away, and thus the usefulness of the

provision is greatly diminished. Experience elsewhere has demonstrated that it is well to bear these facts in mind. For these reasons and others which might be given, we believe that proper provision for the insane cannot be made by a further enlargement of the institution at Kalamazoo.

Nor can this work be successfully accomplished by leaving it to the several counties to establish county asylums. In nearly all of them the insane number so few that the expense of buildings, facilities, and attendants for the accommodation and proper treatment of these unfortunate people, would never be incurred. They would be left just as they now are, to such care as the poor-houses and the jails afford. Besides, the State having commenced the work of providing for the insane, and the counties having contributed for this purpose in proportion to their valuation, they would be reluctant to further burden themselves with the expense which must necessarily be incurred in establishing such a system. Again, it would be far the most expensive, creating forty or fifty asylums, where two would much better answer the purpose. It would only be a more costly way of accomplishing the same result, namely, the care of all the insane throughout the State. Therefore, provision by the State is not only the best way but it is the cheapest. Two of the larger counties of the State have established county asylums in connection with their poor-houses, namely, Wayne and Washtenaw. While we most cheerfully bear witness to the fact that both of these asylums seem to be kept in an excellent condition of cleanliness, and to be managed by humane and attentive men and women, and afford the inmates most favorable conveniences and comforts compared with the wretched provision usually made in county poor-houses, we cannot but regard them as failures for any of the purposes of an asylum, except for the detention of the lunatics there committed for safe-keeping: First. Because there are no facilities for classifying the inmates, and noisy, restless patients greatly disturb and injure

the quiet ones. On entering the Wayne county asylum it was the remark of one of the members of this Board, that the noise he heard corresponded exactly with his idea of bedlam. Second. Because there is the want of a skilled, experienced medical staff for a hospital, with the attendants necessary to the treatment of the disorder. There is not even a sufficient number of attendants to secure the inmates from danger. In the Wayne county institution one of them is now prostrated with a broken leg, caused by jumping from one of the second-story windows of the asylum while in an excited condition and unattended. Third. Because there is no provision, and cannot be without large expense, for a system of light labor, of amusements, and of such attractions as serve to withdraw the attention of the insane from thoughts and feelings connected with their disordered condition. Fourth. Because in most instances they are extremely sensitive, and are quick to understand their situation; and the knowledge that they are paupers, shut up in a part of the poor-house, cannot but be productive of injury to them. For these reasons we believe that it is the duty of the State to at once establish another asylum, and thus humanely make proper provision for all its insane.

We are conscious that the expense will be large, but it should be borne in mind that the necessity is great.

In any provision for this purpose we would also keep in view "that the buildings be of a plain but substantial character, and while characterised by good taste and furnished with every thing essential to comfort, health, and successful treatment of the patients, should avoid all extravagant embellishments and every unnecessary expenditure."

INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB, AND THE BLIND.

The Board visited this institution, and were impressed with the thoroughness and efficiency that seemed to prevail in every department. For our information and gratification, the differ-

ent classes were put through various exercises, and the examination demonstrated that the pupils were being most systematically trained in all the ordinary branches of education, as well as in the higher culture of the heart.

At the present time there are twenty-five pupils in that part of the school devoted to the instruction of the blind, and one hundred and twenty-five in the department for the deaf and the dumb.

Work-shops have recently been connected with this Institution in which the pupils are taught mechanical occupations, thus enabling them to acquire a trade by which they can maintain themselves after they shall have left the establishment. This new and important feature has thus far proved a marked success, several of the boys having, during the summer vacation, found employment with good wages at the kind of business which had been taught them in the Institution.

The Superintendent seems pre-eminently qualified for his position, and we believe that the Institution fully deserves and should continue to receive the fostering care of the State.

POOR-HOUSES.

The poor-houses of the State number some 45, and are generally located on a farm owned by the county, a short distance from the county town. But few of the buildings have been constructed for the purpose for which they are used. In most cases a farm with a dwelling house already upon it has been purchased, and additions from time to time, as they seem to be required, made to the house. The building thus pieced out and patched up is in the majority of cases inconvenient, poorly constructed, and without any adaptation to the object to which it is appropriated. With no convenience for a division of the inmates, or a complete separation of the sexes. With low ceilings, small windows, no drainage, and oftentimes damp and cold, without means for safely heating and properly ventilating the rooms, it fails to meet the wants and requirements which such a building should supply.

While these remarks apply to not a few of the poor-houses, there are a number that have been designed and constructed especially for this purpose.

They are usually commodious, ornamental, and admirable in many respects, but frequently are illy arranged, owing to the fact that they have been planned by men inexperienced in the erection of such buildings, who have overlooked things essential to the comfort and classification of the inmates.

The keepers are generally good and humane men, quick to discern the peculiarities of the paupers, and prompt and kind in managing them. They are usually good farmers, and much of the time are away from the house superintending work upon the farm. As a consequence, a large share in the control of affairs at the house falls upon the keeper's wife, and these women generally manage the inmates well.

The condition of these houses, considering the character of the inmates and the limited facilities and provision for caring for them, is usually good. While some few are dirty and disorderly, displaying a want of neatness, and sometimes almost a lack of decency on the part of those in charge; the great majority are kept in a fair condition so far as relates to cleanliness and order. The association under one roof, as is frequently the case, of the old and the young, the sane and the insane, the sick and the well, of diseased, dirty men, and squalid women and children, makes it quite out of the question, without ample provision for separation, to keep such a house in a perfect condition of neatness. Yet we have gone into some poor-houses in the State where everything was as neat, as clean, and as orderly as in any family house, and we have wondered how such results could be accomplished under the circumstances. In this connection we may add, that in every such establishment we found that the inmates were kept, as far as possible, at some regular, moderate labor, and that such as were able were required and made to keep their rooms and themselves thoroughly clean; and we are

satisfied that light work, occupying the attention and interesting the thoughts of the pauper, not only promotes health, but serves to prevent him from lapsing into a condition of lassiness and filth.

Our poor-houses have an average population of about fifteen hundred persons. Of this multitude of dependents, about two hundred and fifty are insane; one hundred and twenty-five idiots; forty blind; twenty mutes; and about three hundred afflicted with epilepsy, deformities, and chronic diseases, that totally unfit them for self-maintenance. Of the whole number, toward one-fourth are children under sixteen years of age.

Pauper Children—The condition of these children, we are glad to say, has already occupied the attention of the State authorities, and measures have been inaugurated to place them under better influences and amid different surroundings. Their wants are such, that provision should be made for them as speedily as possible; and we look with anxiety for the completion of the building for the State School at Coldwater at an early day, in order that these children may be removed from the terrible circumstances in which they are now placed. In some of the counties these pauper children are not only growing up amid the degradations of the poor-house, but they are denied the privileges of instruction in the common district school, the neighbors regarding them as unfit to associate with their children, and creating a sentiment in the district that excludes them.

Insane Paupers—Of all the inmates in these poor-houses there are none in a more deplorable condition than the insane paupers. About one-third of the whole number of them are kept closely confined in cells, most of which are small, dark, and filthy in the extreme. They are frequently noisy, and at times rave violently, using language unfit to be heard. They are a constant source of annoyance and trouble to those who have them in charge, who, being unskilled in the management of crazy persons, frequently become vexed with them and

treat them with harshness and severity. Many of them have no bedding and no clothing, destroying both as fast as put within their reach. They are regarded as beyond cure, and receive no treatment whatever for the ill that afflicts them. Thus they remain, often for years, until death comes to relieve them. Those who are allowed the freedom of the premises are in a better condition, but nothing is done to help them, and they gradually grow worse. In some instances the same inmates of the house, especially the females, greatly fear them. We believe that by judicious and proper treatment many of them might be restored to a right mind. In some instances, without treatment, reason has returned. The wife of the keeper of the Jackson County poor-house informed us that a woman who was for a long time shut up in that institution, and who was regarded as incurable, to their surprise, came to her senses and returned to her home where she has since remained perfectly sane. This may be a very exceptional case, but it is evidence that even the worst cases are not hopeless; and we think these insane persons should be removed from the poor-houses and placed in asylums, where they may be properly cared for and have opportunity for cure.

Idiots—The condition of the idiots in the poor-houses is not much better than that of the insane. It has been clearly demonstrated that idiocy, even in its worst forms, is capable of training. Several schools for this class have been established in other States, and it has been found that about one-fourth are susceptible of education sufficient to read and to write, and that nearly all of them may be made capable of taking care of their own persons. The body is thoroughly trained and the faint glimmer of mind carefully drawn out, and the results are more satisfactory than the most hopeful had anticipated. The whole number of idiots in this State, as shown by the last census, is 789, and the principal causes of idiocy are said to be epilepsy, sickness and hereditary transmission. Some of the cases in the poor-houses are sad indeed.

We saw, in the Macomb county-house, three small children, all born of one mother, presenting a most repulsive appearance; and while we felt that some provision should be made for the better care of such poor creatures, we also felt that mothers with hereditary tendencies for giving birth to such loathsome objects should be prohibited from procreating their species. We need do no more than to call attention to and reaffirm the statements and recommendations in reference to this class of unfortunates made by the Special Commissioners in 1869.

State Hospital—Our examination of the poor-houses of the State develop the fact that they contain quite a large number of persons suffering from chronic and nervous diseases, from cancers, syphilis, and spinal afflictions, as well as from deformities, caused by contractions, curvatures, and diseases of the spine and joints. Some of these afflicted ones are children and youth. Many of them, if properly treated by experienced physicians, and surgeons, might be relieved and restored to a condition that would enable them to earn a living, and thus save the public the expense of maintaining them during life. They cannot properly be cared for in the poor-houses, and generally are lying there in a most pitiable condition; some of them absolutely rotting by inches, with sores that emit a smell so foul as to make the air all about fairly sickening. They usually require a great amount of care, and frequently are neglected. In most cases their difficulties are of such a character as to demand that medical skill, experience, and apparatus only to be found at the schools of the profession, in hospitals, or where there are large numbers engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery. Both public interest and humanity demand that some provision should be made where these sufferers can be treated. This can only be done by the erection of a hospital by the State, where persons of this class can be sent by and at the expense of the several counties. We apprehend that such a hospital can be erected without a very large

expense. The buildings may be simple and comparatively inexpensive, and by locating them at Ann Arbor, very important results could doubtless be accomplished, viz: The hospital could be furnished with the most skillful medical attendance from the faculty of the Medical Department, without expense to the State. The Medical Department of that great public institution would be made far more useful to the public by having furnished to its students the advantages of witnessing the practical treatment of disease by eminent physicians and surgeons. Again, a corps of physicians and surgeons, as eminent as the medical faculty of the University, would attract to the hospital many patients who would be both able and willing to pay liberally for their support while there.

Dissolute Paupers—There are two principal classes of poor-house paupers. First, those who are helpless and dependent, such as the insane, idiotic, sick and crippled, aged and infirm, infants and young children, and those who are unfortunate, but deserving and willing to work. This class may justly claim to be supported at the poor-house, until some different and better provision may be made for them. They are objects of real charity, and are rightly entitled to relief and help from the public.

The second class consists of vagrants, idlers, and dissolute paupers, who often times are not only lazy but criminal. They seek the poor-house to be maintained in idleness at the public expense. They are generally the very worst class of paupers; low, vile, and miserable, contaminating the whole establishment, and creating disorder and trouble. They are usually fault-finding, quarrelsome, and often dangerous. The keeper of the Clinton county poor-house has twice been seriously and almost fatally injured by paupers of this kind. In each instance the offender was arrested, tried and convicted. One served a term in the House of Correction, and the other is doing likewise in the State Prison.

It is no charity to admit such paupers to the poor-house,

and they have no business to be there. They should be taken as vagrants, to work-houses, and made to labor. There are large numbers of them in the poor-houses, especially in such of these institutions as are located near some city or town. The keeper of the Wayne county-house says that full one-third of the inmates of that establishment are of this character. They refuse to work when good opportunities and fair pay are offered them, and being accustomed to this kind of life, enjoy it, and and do not desire to change.

Roving Paupers—More effective measures should be adopted to keep out many roving paupers that annually come from other States, and especially from the large cities, to seek winter quarters in our poor-houses. They are not residents of this State, have no just claim to its bounty, and the cost of supporting them should not be shifted from the place of their actual residence to localities in our midst.

Greater pains should also be taken to prevent paupers from passing as readily as they do from one county-house to another within the State.

We have found not a few who seem to make a business of testing the merits of as many of these institutions as they possibly can.

Temporary Relief for the Poor—The annual reports of the County Superintendents of the Poor, made to the Secretary of State, for the year 1871, show that the whole number of persons who sought and received temporary relief, outside of the poor-houses, in all the counties of the State, with the exception of seventeen, was fourteen thousand and six hundred. These seventeen counties include some of the most populous counties of the State, and, estimating that they have furnished relief to about the same number as other counties have in proportion to population, we must add about three thousand to the number receiving such relief, making a total of seventeen thousand and six hundred who have thus been temporarily supported. If to this we add the fifteen hundred in the poor-houses, and those

maintained by the public in the State Asylums, we have had on to twenty thousand, or about one to every sixty of our State population, who are aided by public charity, and are in some sense dependent on the general bounty.

The total sum, as shown by the same reports, expended for the temporary relief of the poor in all but eleven counties, from which no reports upon this subject were received, is	\$139,842 41
The expense of maintaining the poor-houses for the same time, is (including \$57,083 55, value of farm products),-----	189,958 18
If to this we add the interest at seven per cent. per annum on \$613,024 23, capital invested in farms and buildings, we have-----	42,911 69
<hr/>	
A grand total of-----	\$372,712 28

As the amount expended for the maintenance of the poor during that year.

The exhibit of amount paid for the temporary relief of persons not in the poor-house shows a great disparity in the different counties, and a want of anything like uniformity in dispensing the appropriations for this purpose. Thus it cost Washtenaw \$6,988 65 to relieve 622 persons; while Monroe relieved nearly the same number, to wit, 608 at an expense of \$1,939 25, being less than one-third the sum paid by Washtenaw. Berrien, with a population of 15,000 less than Kent, relieved 714 persons at a cost of \$6,448 97, while Kent furnished such relief to only 206 persons and paid out therefor but \$2,030 94. St. Clair, with about the same population as Jackson, relieved 477 at an expense of \$7,863 96, while Jackson relieved almost as many, to wit, 398 at a cost of only \$1,329 29. The average cost for each person thus assisted in Ingham, was \$3 71, in Kalamazoo, \$8 88, in Cass, \$13 91, and in Van Buren, \$29 44. The latter county paying nearly

eight times as much as Ingham to each recipient of this bounty.

It is contended by some persons that the system of temporary relief is too general, and ought to be abolished. They insist that the effect is to encourage and increase pauperism ; that those who are thus helped make no effort to help themselves, and that if aid of this kind was generally refused, and those who require assistance and support were sent to the poor-house, it would have the effect to greatly decrease the number of paupers, stimulate the poor and the thriftless to greater exertions to support themselves, and thus greatly lessen the expense annually incurred for the maintenance of this class. We have no doubt that this system of relief is subject to great abuse, and there undoubtedly ought to be a more uniform practice, and perhaps some further limitations in administering it. There are cases within our own knowledge where this relief has been allowed for a long time to undeserving persons, until it has come to be expected as a matter of course, and, instead of being temporary in its character, become nearly, if not quite, permanent. But the abolition of such relief, or too great restrictions in administering it, would, we apprehend, be bad policy, and might be likely to produce much suffering, for worthy persons of spirit would endure all kinds of privations rather than to bear the stigma of having been an inmate of the poor-house. It would tend to break up destitute families ; and the influence of home, humble and bad though it may be, is better than the associations and atmosphere of the poor-house. Besides, sick persons frequently cannot be removed, and must be supported at the places where they are. Again, it would have a tendency to make more permanent paupers to be wholly supported by the county, for many who receive relief sufficient to carry them through a fit of sickness, or some other adverse circumstance, maintain themselves after the pressure is over, who, if sent to the poor-house, would lose all ambition, and, under the feeling

of disgrace, would make no effort to again support themselves. It might tend to increase crime, for some, in great want, would steal before they would go to the poor-house, and those who would go, would soon lose all self-respect, and be quite ready to engage in criminal practices.

Then, too, children born or reared in the poor-house are apt to become paupers and vagrants for life, and the taint frequently follows them, and their children inherit it and become paupers also; thus, through the poor-house, pauperism becomes hereditary. Temporary relief would seem to be cheaper, because many persons who would have to be wholly supported by the county are enabled, with a small amount of relief, to provide for their own necessities. These considerations seem to weigh strongly against the abolition of the system.

The large increase of pauperism in our midst, and the great expense incident to it, with the fact that in some localities the cost is very much greater than in others similarly situated, requires a careful scrutiny of all provisions and methods adapted to meet its demands, and we have thrown out these suggestions with the view of calling the attention of those familiar with this subject to it, hoping that, through their experience and wisdom, measures may be devised for securing a more uniform and economical system of administering this temporary relief.

RECORDS.

Provision should be made by law for a uniform system of records in jails and poor-houses. From many of the counties it is impossible to get anything like correct statistics. In some no records are kept; in others they are so incomplete as to be almost wholly worthless, while in a few instances they are quite full, and kept in a neat, systematic, business-like manner. Direct statistical facts often make plain what may have seemed doubtful, and furnish a solid basis to build upon, which theories and estimates cannot. If we could have complete statistics, and take the exact measure of crime and

pauperism of all grades in our midst, we should be much better prepared for intelligent action in the application of remedies therefor.

The jail record should show the name, age, offense charged, date of admission, time of discharge, and social condition of each prisoner, with a description of the person, and a brief statement, as far as the same can be ascertained, of habits and previous history. Such a record would be valuable as a means of accurately ascertaining the number of commitments and re-commitments, with the principal source of crime, and it would furnish a complete description by which a prisoner, in case of escape, might be followed and identified. With this record, and the further precaution, said to be in practice in some jails, of photographing all prisoners of a desperate and dangerous character, charged with high crimes, like murder, arson, rape, burglary, or grand larceny, the number who get away and succeed in staying away might be greatly lessened. The poor-house register should embrace, under appropriate heads, the items required to be reported by the superintendents of poor to the Secretary of State, with a brief history of each pauper. To secure this work well and faithfully done, form books should be provided, and a penalty imposed by law upon officers required to keep such records who neglect to do so.

DEFINITE RECOMMENDATIONS.

In view of the considerations presented in the foregoing report, this Board respectfully recommend:

1. The establishment of a Reform School for girls, and if suitable arrangements can be made, in connection with the House of Shelter at Detroit.
2. The creation of intermediate prisons, or work-houses.
3. Some better provision for aiding inmates discharged from the Reform School and convicts discharged from prison to obtain employment.
4. The organization of a Central Board, which shall have

the general charge and oversight of all the preventive, reformatory and penal institutions of the State.

5. The establishment of another asylum for the insane.

6. The establishment of a State hospital at Ann Arbor, in connection with the Medical Department of the University.

7. Provision by law for sending dissolute paupers to the intermediate prisons or the Detroit House of Correction.

8. A law requiring sheriffs and poor-house keepers to make uniform records in relation to all persons committed to the jails and poor-houses, in the manner to be pointed out by law.

REVISION OF PENAL LAWS.

By the act authorizing the appointment of this Board, it was provided that in addition to the other duties contemplated it should collect and thoroughly examine all the penal and criminal laws of the State, and report the same, with such revisions, amendments and suggestions for the improvement thereof, as to the Board might seem necessary and expedient.

A work so important as this would undoubtedly involve the suggestion of many changes and amendments, and some additions to our criminal statutes; and to be of service when performed, would require a thorough investigation of the whole criminal legislation of the State, and an examination into the decisions of our courts relating thereto; such investigation should also extend to the criminal laws of the other States, and especially to those from which we have drawn most largely for precedents in our legislation.

And it will be observed at once, that a duty requiring so much research and careful labor, would necessarily make large demands upon the time of those charged with its performance.

Hence, in view of these facts, and that the Legislature has made no provision for any adequate compensation for the labor and services here referred to, the Board have deemed proper to defer that part of the labor devolving upon it until

the matter should be submitted to the Legislature for its further consideration.

Another reason for postponing the revision of the penal code is that it seemed to us very desirable that the Legislature should act upon the recommendations of this report before such revision was attempted, as such action might materially effect such revision.

PROVISION FOR VISITING INSTITUTIONS IN OTHER STATES.

To enable this Board most wisely and effectually to carry out the objects of its creation, and point out the improvements required, and the legislation needed for the advancement of our State institutions, it is deemed important that the Board be provided with means to visit, either in person or by their secretary, similar institutions in other States, and confer personally and fully with those connected with their management and administration. In this way, and in this way alone, can we fully avail ourselves of the experience of other States, and learn both by their failures and their successes.

Means should also be placed in the hands of the Board for the purchase of books relating to the subjects they are called upon to investigate.

EXPENSES OF THE BOARD.

The actual expenditures of this Board to, and including the twenty-first day of December, 1872, with the purpose for which such expenses were incurred, are as follows :

Commissioner's traveling expenses.....	\$164 92
Secretary's traveling expenses.....	255 80
Salary of the Secretary.....	1,875 00
Rent of office.....	125 00
Office desk and chair.....	62 00
Stationery, blank books and blanks.....	50 48
Services of short-hand reporter of Reform School investigation	208 50
Total.....	\$2,741 70

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS,

The Board hereby express their grateful acknowledgments and thanks to the officers of the following railway companies for favors, whereby the expenses of the members of the Board in the discharge of official duties have been greatly lessened : The Michigan Central, Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan, Detroit, Hillsdale and Indiana, Peninsular, Flint and Pere Marquette, Grand Trunk, Detroit and Milwaukee, Grand Rapids and Indiana, Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw, Chicago and Northwestern, and Chicago and Michigan Lake Shore.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON CONGRESS.

Of late public attention has been turned in a much greater measure than formerly to the consideration of the best method for dealing with criminals and unfortunates. Men and women of the highest capacity and the noblest philanthropy are devoting labor and thought to the consideration of this subject, and every year witnesses new suggestions and practical improvements for the management of these classes. A proper oversight and care for the needy and the suffering is now regarded as a duty enjoined not alone upon individual members of community, but upon society and the State. Asylums for those deprived of the full faculties of mind and body, hospitals for the maimed and diseased, homes for vagrant and destitute children, and retreats and reformatories for the weak and fallen are generously provided. Sometimes the offspring of individual benevolence alone; again proceeding from the joint action of individuals and municipalities, and often the result of a great act of beneficence on the part of the State itself. Conventions and conferences are held, statistics and facts gathered, and organized efforts of various kinds put forth to ascertain and bring into practical effect the best measures for properly dealing with pauperism, vice and crime. The interest in this matter has become world-wide, and recently an international prison congress num-

bering almost three hundred members, with representatives from quite or nearly twenty-five nationalities of the civilized world, assembled in the city of London for the consideration of this important subject. This body of enlightened men and women, many of whom have had practical experience in the supervision of prisons, reformatories, and charitable institutions, cannot fail to be the means of enlightening the public mind upon these important questions, and of paving and preparing the way for an improved system for the prevention of crime, the safe keeping and reformation of criminals, and the care of diseased, weak-minded and poor persons.

CONCLUSION.

In thus reviewing to some extent the operations of our State institutions, and the workings of our penal system for the past year, it is to this Board a source of great gratification to know that, notwithstanding the State has steadily increased in population and wealth, the number of inmates in prisons and jails, as compared with former years, has considerably decreased.

The reports of all the penal institutions of the State verify this statement, and show that crime in our midst has steadily lessened.

This realization encourages us to new activity, and gives us stronger faith for the future.

In concluding this report, we take occasion to bear testimony to the faithfulness with which your Excellency has supervised the public institutions of the State. Their increased power for the repression of wrong and for effective beneficence is largely due to the wisdom, the prudence, and the ability which has characterized your administration of the affairs of our State.

C. I. WALKER,
W. B. WILLIAMS,
HENRY W. LORD,
Commissioners.

C. M. CROSWELL, *Secretary.*

APPENDIX.



APPENDIX.

SCHEDULE A.

Statement, showing the condition of the County Jails.

ALCONA.

No report.

ALLEGAN.

The jail in this county is of brick, two stories high, and was built in 1860, and is valued at five thousand dollars. On the day of examination there was but one prisoner in it. The floor of the corridor is laid upon the ground, and is damp from the soil beneath. A vault beneath the prison receives all the excrements from the privy, the stench from which rises into the building, rendering the cells foul and noisome. There are four cells. The jail was kept as cleanly as it well could be, under the circumstances. There are no separate cells for females, nor any provision for caring for them; yet the sheriff informed us that one woman had been detained six months in this jail, as a witness.

ALPENA.

Jail a frame building, two stories high, valued at about five thousand dollars, and contains eight cells.

ANTRIM.

The jail in this county is a frame building, the upper part of which is used as a court-house. Its estimated value is eight thousand dollars.

BARRY.

This jail is a two-story brick building, erected in 1852. It has six cells; is warmed by a furnace, and was in good condition as to cleanliness. The privy was offensive, the pipe leading from it to a vault at the side of the building, being out of repair. Provision for the separation of the sexes, and for keeping the younger from the older prisoners was poor. The jail has no bathing facilities.

BAY.

A new and expensive jail is being erected in this county, opposite to the court-house, in Bay City. It has a Mansard roof, with dormer windows and a tower, and is one of the most showy buildings in the city. A large part of the expense of this building seems to be in the construction of that part to be occupied by the sheriff or jailor as a residence. At the time of the visitation the jail proper was but simply inclosed, so that its probable effectiveness and convenience when completed could not be ascertained.

A frame building used as a jail, at the time of the visit, was leased property and contained eleven cells. It was in a miserable condition for the confinement of prisoners; and yet there were nine men imprisoned in it, one of whom was a debtor confined under the non-imprisonment act. The general condition of this building was one of shabbiness; yet seven hundred and sixteen persons had been imprisoned in it at various times during the year.

BERRIEN.

This jail was erected in 1870, and cost about thirty thousand dollars, and is one of the most novel and peculiar in its interior arrangements of any in the State. It is of brick, two stories high. The front part and one wing is used for the residence of the sheriff. A wing on the north side is the jail proper. The cells are constructed within this room, or wing, which is fifty feet square, and are arranged in a circle around

a rotunda twenty feet in diameter. This rotunda is surmounted by a dome of iron frame-work and glass, and affords light and ventilation to the cells. Around the lower story of the rotunda are sixteen single cells, seven feet in length, and four feet in width at the end next to the rotunda, and six feet in width at the opposite end; each of these cells opens by a door into the rotunda. A large and deep rain-water cistern occupies the whole space beneath the floor of the rotunda, and pumps fastened to this floor supply the prisoners with water from the cistern and from an adjoining well. A conduit which carries off the water from the pumps, also carries away the excrements and filth, if any. The prisoners from all the lower tier of cells are allowed free access to the rotunda. An iron grating is placed in the end of each of these cells next to the outer circle, or corridor, through which the whole interior of the cells are visible. The upper tier consist of eight double cells, and are entered from the floor of the upper story of the room in which the cells are constructed, by doors placed in the ends opposite the rotunda. This tier of cells is used for female prisoners, boys, and persons not permitted to be confined with criminals.

This jail is considered safe. One or two prisoners have attempted to escape through the dome, but were unable to pass the iron frame-work (or spider, so called) of the dome. Each cell has an iron lattice-work bedstead hung to the wall. The walls of the cells are all of solid stone. The building is warmed by stoves; the ventilation, light, and drainage is good, and the jail seems clean and sweet. At the time of visitation there were eight prisoners, one of whom was a woman, confined in the jail.

BRANCH.

The jail in this county has been condemned by public opinion for a long time, and by the Circuit Court, and is only used for temporary purposes. An arrangement has been made by which the jail of St. Joseph county is used for the confine-

ment of such prisoners as the Branch county authorities see fit to send there. The question of the erection of a new jail was submitted to the people but voted down. The old jail has the appearance of a dilapidated old horse-barn, and is of such a character on the inside that it is impossible to keep it in decent order. There are no windows; long, narrow holes without glass, but with iron-bars fastened crosswise, admit alike the winds, snow, and rain to the cells, and furnish what little light and ventilation reaches the inmates of this outrageous pen. Yet, in this miserable place one hundred and seven males and six females were imprisoned during the year, and three of these were insane persons. Since Andersonville, nothing more horrible or inhuman has been known than imprisonment in this vile den.

CALHOUN.

The Calhoun county jail is a large two-story brick building, conveniently situated. It has six cells, all larger than the average of such places of confinement.

The estimated value of the jail and grounds is eight thousand dollars.

Owing to the absence of the sheriff at the time of our visit, we were unable to examine the jail thoroughly.

CASS.

This jail is pleasantly situated on the main street in Cassopolis. It is a brick building, two-stories high, with the residence of the jailor in the front, and the jail proper in the rear. It was erected in 1851, has six large cells, and is warmed by means of a furnace. Its estimated value is two thousand dollars. It had but one inmate on the day of examination. The cells for females are below, and those for males above. The cells seemed to require plastering, and were in rather a dilapidated condition. No means for bathing are provided. The beds appeared to be clean, but the general arrangement of the jail for the convenience of prisoners is poor.

CHARLEVOIX.

Said to have no jail.

CHEBOYGAN.

Jail a wooden building, with two good-sized cells, and said to have cost about one thousand dollars.

CHIPPEWA.

CLINTON.

This county has no jail of its own. Mr. Moses D. Brown, a merchant at St. Johns, has erected a temporary building which is used for this purpose. It is a wooden structure, twenty by twenty-five feet in size, and one story high; was erected in 1870, and has five cells. There was but one prisoner confined there on the day of examination. Its condition as to cleanliness was good, but there is no provision for any classification of the inmates, or proper separation of the sexes.

CLARE.

Not visited.

DELTA.

The jail is in the village of Escanaba, and is a frame building, two stories high, twenty-four by thirty-two feet in size; was erected in 1865, and has seven cells for males, and one for females. Its estimated value is five thousand dollars. The county has no poor-house, and sometimes the poor are quartered in the jail. A vagrant confined there at the time of our visit, was the only person in jail. The building was not in excellent condition as to cleanliness, and there was a bad stench pervading it, which the sheriff ascribed to the filthiness of the single tenant. There are no provisions for bathing or for any proper separation of the sexes.

EATON.

Eaton county had no jail at the time of our visit, the old one having been removed to give place to a new jail then in progress of construction.

Prisoners from this county were sent to the Jackson county jail for safe keeping.

EMMET.

No statement.

GENESEE.

The jail of this county was erected in 1866, at a cost of sixteen thousand dollars, and was designed to be an excellent jail. The building is of brick, two stories high, and contains sixteen cells, eight above and eight below, each eight feet long by five feet in width, and eight feet high. The interior is lined with boiler iron. The floor is constructed of large flag-stones, laid in mortar, but so insecurely that prisoners, with such tools as a common case knife and a small iron bar, have succeeded in raising them up, and in digging out from under the floor.

At the time of our visit the lower floor of the jail was in perfect disorder by reason of an escape of this kind. The cells have no means of ventilation, and the whole atmosphere of the establishment was foul from the exhalations of a privy vault underneath the building. We were informed that there were no means of cleansing this vault. The general condition of the jail as to cleanliness was not good. The number of prisoners on the day of examination was seven.

GRAND TRAVERSE.

The jail of this county is constructed of wood, is one story high, with two large cells. Its estimated value is \$1,200.

GRATIOT.

Has no jail. Prisoners from this county are kept in the Clinton county jail.

HILLSDALE.

The jail of Hillsdale county is a stone structure, situated in the rear of the court-house. The building is two stories in height, and contains six low, dingy, damp, cheerless cells, with-

out any ventilation. This jail is quite an old one, and without adaptation to the purpose for which it is used.

HOUGHTON.

The jail is a two-story frame building, thirty feet wide by fifty feet in length, and was erected in 1861. It contains sixteen cells for males and four for females. All the cells are five by eight feet in size. The building and premises are valued at six thousand dollars. On the day of examination there were five male and female prisoners in the jail. Two of these inmates were insane. The general appearance of the jail as to cleanliness was good, but the cells were somewhat infested with vermin, and the ventilation was bad. There was no bathing facilities for the prisoners.

HURON.

The jail is a frame building, valued at about one thousand dollars, and contains three good-sized cells.

INGHAM.

The jail in this county is a large square building, with the residence of the sheriff in the front, and the jail proper in the rear. At the time of our visit there were five inmates, two of whom were boys. All the prisoners associated together in the corridor. The condition of the jail as to cleanliness seemed to be good.

IOSCO.

The Iosco jail is in the basement of the court-house. It contains three cells, the construction of which, like those of all jails made in this manner, is bad.

IONIA.

The jail of this county, erected in 1843, is of wood, two stories high, and contains three cells in the lower and two in the upper part. Females are usually kept above and the males below. The value of the grounds and buildings is estimated at ten thousand dollars. The general condition of the jail as

to cleanliness was not good. The cells are large, but in a miserable condition. The whole jail proper looked old, rusty, and dirty.

ISABELLA.

Isabella county is reported as having no jail.

JACKSON.

The Jackson county jail is a two-story brick building, located in the business part of the city of Jackson. The estimated value of the grounds and buildings is forty thousand dollars. It contains fourteen cells in the lower part, made of boiler iron, and arranged in two tiers, the one above the other. The upper tier of cells is reached by means of steps and a platform or balcony. There is no ventilation to any of these cells, and no light or air, except such as enters at the doors. Water is brought into the jail by the Holly water-works, but there are no facilities for bathing. The arrangement of the privies is bad, and the odor from them is offensive.

The rooms in the upper story are large, but rather untidy in appearance. There were thirteen prisoners in the jail at the time of our visitation, one of whom was a female. The bedding consisted of straw beds, sheets, pillows and blankets, and seemed good.

KALAMAZOO.

This jail is a large, two-story brick building, thirty-five by sixty-five feet in size, with the residence of the sheriff in front, which is thirty-six by forty feet in size. The jail was erected in 1869, and contains twenty-eight cells, four of which are for females. The cells are covered with boiler iron, and are ventilated by means of flues. The building is warmed by a furnace and lighted with gas. There were twenty-four prisoners in the jail on the day of examination. The jail is kept scrupulously clean; the floor is scrubbed almost daily, and the walls white-washed every two weeks. Baths and tubs are provided, and the prisoners are required to keep themselves clean. Prisoners

are encouraged to work, and have painted the jail and the inside of the court-house. They have also sawed all the wood for the jail and the county offices.

This jail was constructed with special reference to strength, and in that respect is one of the safest in the State; and yet the sheriff says that without constant watching, it is impossible to prevent skillful criminals from escaping. There is no arrangement for the classification of the inmates, and the young and the old mingle together.

The estimated value of the jail is \$40,000.

KENT.

The Kent county jail has been recently constructed, at a cost of thirty-eight thousand dollars. It is of brick, two stories high, with a Mansard roof, and a room in the loft for hospital purposes. It has twenty single cells, six large double cells, and two for females, which are separate from the others; being twenty-eight in all. The floor, sides, and ceilings of the cells, and the interior of the jail are of heavy boiler iron, put together in the most substantial manner; each cell is provided with a water-closet, and ventilated by Rutan's patent ventilator. The corridor surrounding the cells is divided by an iron lattice work, which keeps the prisoners from passing into the outer corridor, and enables persons passing through the latter to see all prisoners not confined within the cells. The cell doors are so arranged that the jailor may close them at the same time without entering the inner corridor. The acoustic arrangements are such that the jailor, in his own apartment, may hear the slightest noise, or any conversation going on in any cell. Speaking tubes are also arranged so that officers and employes in different parts of the building may communicate with each other.

On the day of our visit, there were three female and seventeen male prisoners in the jail. Two of the latter were boys, who were in the inner corridor, in association with the pris-

oners generally. In one of the female cells we found a girl eleven years of age, who had been sent to jail for one week for running away from her stepmother, imprisoned with a woman said to be a street-walker.

All the appointments of this jail are of the most approved character, and the building is a conspicuous, showy, and handsome structure; but should we venture a criticism, we should say that more expense and display were laid out upon the part occupied by the sheriff for a residence, than seems appropriate for prison purposes.

KALKASKA.

No statement.

KEWEEBNAW.

No statement.

LAKE.

No statement.

LAPER.

The jail of this county is a plain, two-story brick building; size, thirty-five by sixty-five feet, and, with the grounds, is valued at \$10,000. It was built in 1860, and contains six cells, eight feet in length, and six feet wide. There were four prisoners in the jail on the day of examination. No provision is made for the separation or classification of the inmates, nor any for bathing. The prisoners have free communication with each other, and are without employment.

LENAWEE.

The Lenawee county jail is an old brick building, constructed in 1837, and is in a very bad state of repair, and fast going to decay. It contains nine cells, eight for males, and one for females. They are five feet eight inches in width, and seven and a half feet long, and are without ventilation, and in a miserable condition. There were thirteen prisoners in confinement on the day of examination, and three lodged together in some of these small cells. The ceilings are low, and the jail

has no proper ventilation. The privy is as bad as can be, and should be removed, as it could be without any great outlay; the odor arising from it is very offensive, and the atmosphere of the jail is impregnated with it. There were two insane persons in the jail. The general condition as to cleanliness was good, but there are no provisions for washing and bathing. There is no drainage from the building, and the condition of the jail, upon the whole, is extremely bad, and without any proper facilities for caring for prisoners. It is so insecure that prisoners charged with high crimes are kept constantly locked in the wretched cells.

LIVINGSTON.

This jail is under the court-house. It contains eight cells, and was in rather bad repair, some of the cells are quite large, but the general arrangement of the jail is bad, and it was not clean.

MACKINAW.

No statement.

MACOMB.

The Macomb county jail is a one-story stone building and contains six cells, one of which is large and designed for females. The jail is said to be damp.

MANISTEE.

No statement.

MANITOU.

No statement.

MASON.

Not visited.

MARQUETTE.

This county has a two-story brick building, thirty-eight feet square, with a stone building in the rear, which is the jail proper. It was constructed in 1870, and has six cells, seven feet long, six feet wide, and seven feet high. There is no system of drainage here, and at the time of our visit every cell

had water in it except two, and they were damp. In one of the cells the water covered the floor to the depth of four inches. There were three prisoners in this jail, one of whom was insane. The cells are all of heavy stone work, and the jail was designed to be substantial and secure, but there is no provision for a division of the prisoners or proper separation of the sexes. Water is conveyed into the building by means of the Holly water works, and good facilities are provided for washing. The condition as to cleanliness was tolerable.

MECOSTA.

Jail a two-story frame building, containing four cells, each six feet by eight.

MENOMINEE.

Jail a new one-story frame building, twenty-two feet wide and thirty long, exclusively for jail purposes, no family living therein, and no provision for any.

The building is neatly painted white, with green blinds at the windows. It has but two cells, each of which is seven by nine feet in size. There were two prisoners confined there on the day of examination, and the general condition as to cleanliness was good. There is no provision for preventing the free association of prisoners, or for the proper separation of the sexes, nor any bathing facilities.

MIDLAND.

Jail constructed in 1868, and is a neat brick building, two stories high, containing fourteen cells, eight of which are single, seven feet by four and a half; four are double cells, eight feet square, and two are for females.

This jail was constructed at an expense of \$20,000, and seems to be kept in a tidy and orderly manner. There were two prisoners in confinement on the day of examination.

MISSAUKEE.

Not visited.

MONROE.

Jail a two-story stone building, forty feet square, with two wings, each twenty feet square, and contains nine cells. Eight of these are single cells, four and a half by ten feet each, and one double cell nine by ten feet. The grounds and building are valued at \$5,000. There was but one person in jail on the day of examination. This jail is not in an excellent state of repair. The young are not kept separate from the older prisoners, and the provision in regard to the sexes is such that they can see and talk with one another. The jail was clean and well white-washed, but is old, somewhat dilapidated, and reported by the sheriff not to be wholly free from vermin.

MONTCALM.

Jail a frame building, thirty feet in length, twenty-four feet wide, and two stories high. The upper part of the building is occupied as a court-room. It has two cells made of boiler iron, one of which is six by eight, and the other ten by eight feet square. The jail is detached and occupied only by prisoners. Their meals are carried to them. But one prisoner was in the jail on the day of visitation. It was in a fair state of cleanliness.

MUSKEGON.

This jail is in the basement of the court-house, which is a fine showy building, of brick, and was erected in 1870. There are twenty cells in all, each five feet by seven and seven feet high. They are poorly lighted, and two of them are almost entirely dark. They are not properly ventilated. There is no drainage for carrying off the excrements of the privy, most of which remains in a vault under the building. There were four male and two female prisoners confined here at the time of the visit, and one of them was insane. The jail was clean, and we saw no evidence of neglect or filth.

NEWAYGO.

Jail a wooden building, quite old, with two large cells.

OAKLAND.

The jail is in the second story of a brick building, thirty-two by thirty-six feet in size, contains eight cells and one double cell. They have no ventilation, and must be intolerable, especially in the warm season. There is a cell expressly for women, but the other prisoners mingle together freely. Nine were in the jail at the time of our visit; one of these was a female. The cells are not free from vermin. The floors were dirty, the sheriff saying that they could not scrub them for the reason that water leaked through into the rooms below.

OCEANA.

Jail in the lower room of the court-house. It has five large cells. The prisoners intermingle freely.

ONTONAGON.

Not visited.

OSCEOLA.

No statement.

OTTAWA.

Jail a new two-story brick building, containing six cells, four double and two single, and a cell eight by twenty feet, called the "lock-up." The most of the interior of the jail is made of boiler iron. The cells are ventilated by air conductors, but the sheriff reports them to be good for nothing as ventilators. The building is warmed by a furnace, and was constructed at an expense of twelve thousand dollars, and is apparently well built and well kept.

PRESQUE ISLE.

No examination.

SAGINAW.

This is an expensive jail, having been constructed in 1870, at a cost of \$30,000. It contains twenty-five cells, one of which is for females. Two are double, and twenty-two are single cells. They are made of boiler iron, and substantially con-

structed, but not well ventilated. The building is warmed by a furnace, and drained by means of a good sewer, as we were told. Eighteen prisoners were in confinement at the time of our visit; two of these were boys under fifteen years of age, who mingled freely in the corridor with the other prisoners. The premises were not in good order as to cleanliness.

ST. CLAIR.

The jail in this county is a two-story brick building, the east half of which is used for jail purposes. It contains four cells without any decent ventilation. The prisoners all mingle in the corridor. Among them, on the day of our visit, was an insane man, fantastically dressed, his head plumed with feathers, and various ornaments about his person. He had been a soldier in the Union army in the time of the rebellion, and became crazy after his return, and has been shut in this jail for months. It would seem as though some provision might be made for him in the United States Asylum for disabled soldiers of this class, if the attention of the General Government was called to his case.

SANILAC.

The Sanilac jail is in the lower rooms of the court-house and has three large cells. It is a frame building, constructed at an expense of about four thousand dollars. There are no means for the classification of prisoners or a proper separation of the sexes. There was but one inmate on the day of our visit.

SCHOOLCRAFT.

Not visited.

SHIAWASSEE.

Jail situated in the back part of the court-house, and not very secure, about a dozen having escaped from it within the last two years. There are four good-sized cells. No one was in confinement when we were there. There are no means of

washing or bathing, and the provision for the separation of the sexes is wholly insufficient.

ST. JOSEPH.

A two-story brick building, with eight cells, constitutes the jail of this county. The cells are without good ventilation, and the jail is not in a good state of repair. There were three prisoners here on the day of our visit. It seemed to be well kept, and was cleanly.

TUSCOLA.

No statement.

VAN BUREN.

Jail is a two-story frame building, erected in 1856, and contains four cells; they are not ventilated, and the general arrangement of the jail is bad. The residence of the sheriff is directly above the room where the prisoners are confined, and there is nothing between them to deaden the sound. At the time of our visit the wife of the sheriff lay sick in the upper room, and one of the prisoners below was a maniac, whose ravings could be heard distinctly in the sick-room. There are no bedsteads, and six prisoners have slept together upon the floor in one cell, as we were informed by the sheriff.

WASHTENAW.

Jail a brick building, with twenty-six cells. The sheriff was absent on the day of our visit, and we were unable to make a thorough examination; but we were informed that the Rev. Dr. Gillespie visits the jail regularly, and interests himself for the best good of the inmates, and that its general condition was good, considering the facilities and conveniences of the building.

WAYNE.

The Wayne county jail is a large stone building with eighty-four cells. There are in addition several cells for debtors and witnesses. The cells do not seem to be well ventilated, and the

foul odors from the privy, at the time of our visit, made the atmosphere in them somewhat offensive. The prisoners all mingle in their respective corridors, of which there are six. They are provided with neither employment or instruction. Each corridor is supplied with water for ordinary purposes, but no provision is made for bathing. The prisoners are required to wash their own underclothing or to be at the expense of having it done. The diet is regular, and consists of very plain and wholesome food. The jail is in a fair condition as to cleanliness, and seems generally to be in good order.

SCHEDULE B.

Showing the condition of the County Poor-Houses.

ALCONA

Is understood to have no poor-house.

ALLEGAN.

The poor-house is pleasantly situated on a farm of 160 acres, in the township of Allegan, about four miles northwest of the village of the same name. There is a fair orchard on the premises and a good vegetable garden. On one side of the house, and almost in front of it is a cluster of fine shade trees, which, with a suitable lawn about them, might form a pleasant retreat in the hot days of summer. The building is of wood, well painted inside and out, has large rooms, high ceilings, and transom windows over the doors. The rooms and halls are light and airy, and present a tidy appearance, except the dining-room and some of the rooms occupied by the males, which need renovating. On the day of the visitation there were twenty-five paupers in the institution. One insane female is very difficult to care for, keeping her room and her person at times

plastered with her own excrements. There are nine of the inmates who are idiotic, some of them badly so. There are six pauper children in the house. One noticeable feature, worthy of imitation, in this establishment, is the placing of mosquito-bars at the windows of the paupers' rooms. The keeper stated that this expense was only seven cents a window, and the addition to the comfort of the inmates must be considerable. The cellar looked clean and orderly; but the construction of cells for the insane, in one part of it, is a great mistake, for the noise and ravings of lunatics confined there must always disturb those above. Sinks, with other apparatus for washing hands and faces, are furnished for the use of the paupers, but there is no preparation for bathing. Wooden bedsteads are in use, and the keeper says that, despite the utmost exertion, vermin will gather and breed in them. This house seems very well kept; but a bath-room, an ice-house, a better classification of the inmates, and a little more attention to ornamenting the ground would add to it very much. The secretary was accompanied by Messrs. Calkins and Jewett, two of the county superintendents.

ALPHEA.

Reported to have no poor-house.

ANTRIM.

No poor-house.

BARRY.

The location of this poor-house is good, but rather barren of trees. The house is a frame building, and seems to be tolerably well kept. There are no separate apartments for the insane, nor were there any persons in the institution who were badly insane. There is no provision for the separation or classification of the inmates. We found three small children in this institution, all from one family. They had been abandoned by the mother, who had ran away, and were left here by a shiftless father. One of them was afflicted with a fever-sore, and the others were in the room assisting in caring

for it. The room in which they were kept was cheerless and cold, and the bedding poor.

BAY.

The poor-house is situated in the town of Hampton, about four miles east of Bay City. It is on a good farm and is located a long distance back from the road, affording a fine opportunity for neat grounds in front of the premises. The building is a two-story frame structure, and there is a separate house for the keeper. There is a young orchard on the farm, and something of a vegetable garden.

The surroundings about the house look neat and tidy, and the general appearance of things without and within, except in the men's room, was orderly and good. The keeper is new, this being his first year in the business. The floors are painted, and as a general thing they seem clean. Tobacco is not furnished the paupers, and as a substitute, they use dried mullein leaves. The farm is apparently well worked, and the keeper a good farmer. There is no cellar to the buildings, which seems a great defect. Two children under six years of age are in this house. One old woman is lying on a bed, and is a great care, as she is so infirm as to be wholly unable to do anything. The rooms in the female department appeared to be tidy and clean, but those occupied by the males did not seem to be thus kept; and notwithstanding it was a warm day, yet a half-dozen paupers, any of whom were able to, and should have been required to keep their room cleanly and in order, were hovering in idleness about a hot stove in the men's sitting-room.

We were accompanied by Mr. Israel Catlin, one of the gentlemanly superintendents of the poor.

BERRIEN.

This poor-house is situated on a fine farm, about two and a half miles east of Berrien Center. The house is a large, square, brick building, two stories high, with cellar kitchen in the basement,

and is surmounted with a tower. More attention has been paid here to ornamenting the grounds than in most poor-houses, and the premises in front of the building are inclosed with a good picket fence. The building was erected at considerable expense, and is large, and in the main convenient, but in some respects, is badly arranged, the rooms of the paupers, and the keeper's rooms being in too close proximity. The rooms are very well ventilated, have high ceilings, and most of them are so arranged that they can be occupied by more than one pauper. Good provision is made for the separation of the sexes, except at meal time, and in some instances in the hospital. The building is heated by steam, which also furnishes good facilities for steaming food and washing clothes.

A wind mill attached to a well near the house supplies water for general use, and it is intended to convey water by it into the second story of the building. There are no bathing facilities, but good sinks and conveniences for the paupers to wash themselves. A dumb waiter conveys the food of the paupers from the kitchen to the dining hall. There are transom windows over most of the inner doors. There were eight insane persons in the institution, four of whom were confined in a small building near by at the time of the visitation; they presented a very loathsome appearance. In this place were both men and women who were only separated by a narrow hall and upright wooden grates. There were two cells in the basement of the main building in which insane women were also kept. This would seem to be a most unsuitable place for the confinement of such persons. There were two deaf and two blind persons, and also four children under 14 years of age, in this institution.

BRANCH.

The poor-house of this county is situated a short distance from the city of Coldwater, on a farm of one hundred and forty acres. The house is a two-story brick building, commodious, but not as well arranged as it should be. We found two insane

persons confined here in cells of about eight by ten feet in size; one, a woman, had been here over a year, and is quite noisy at times. She has been at the asylum at Kalamazoo, but was dismissed as incurable. The house presented a general appearance of cleanliness and order.

CALHOUN.

We found the board of superintendents of this county in session, and in company with them visited the poor-house. It is situated on a farm of 140 acres, near the city of Marshall. The main building is a two story frame structure. The house and premises were in good order, and the inmates generally seemed comfortable. There were seven insane persons kept in close confinement here, in grated cells seven feet in width by eight in length. The building for them is new, and the provision for their treatment appeared to be as good, if not better, than in most of the poor-houses in the State. Several large and comfortable rooms have been added to the building, designed for the purpose of separating the better class of paupers from the more degraded ones. An excellent garden on the premises is cultivated mainly by the paupers, and such of them as were able to be employed, seemed provided with something to do.

CASS.

The Cass county poor-house is in the township of Jefferson, three miles southwest of the village of Cassopolis. The main building is of brick, has a Mansard roof and a tower, and presents a very fine appearance. The rooms generally are large, with high ceilings, and are kept in a very neat and tidy manner, and have the appearance of a comfortable and attractive home. The beds and bedding are excellent, and the appearance of the inmates indicates good care. In the arrangement of the building the provision for the separation of the sexes is not as effective as it should be, they having all to pass through the same halls to their lodging rooms. There were two insane.

persons in the institution ; one of them was violent and was confined in a small brick building erected for such purposes. There were eleven children, all under fifteen years of age, kept at the house, and two idiots. There is no provision for bathing. There were 31 inmates in all. Some of them were sick, and yet were made so comfortable that it would scarce have been imagined that they were paupers. A good ice-house is attached to the premises. Mr. D. M. Howell and James Boyd accompanied us on this visit ; the latter bears the name, in that vicinity, of the "father of the poor."

CHARLEVOIX.

Is understood to have no poor-house.

CHEROYGAN.

Has no poor-house.

CHIPPEWA.

Has no poor-house.

CLARE.

Supposed to have no poor-house.

CLINTON.

This poor-house is a plain two-story frame building, situated in the township of Brigham, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the village of St. Johns. Although a portion of it is new, it does not present a very attractive appearance, and is not well adapted for a classification and division of its inmates. The farm is pleasantly located and seems to be in a good condition. It has a good orchard and vegetable garden. There are 24 inmates, of whom one is insane, and five children under sixteen years of age, three of which are idiotic. There are several old men in the house, and one man who is suffering severely from what is called a cancer, in his face. Some of the rooms occupied by the old men are foul, and do not present a tidy appearance. This is probably owing to the fact that there is not sufficient assistance to enable the keeper to look after the

premises as completely as he would like to. There are no provisions for bathing or washing, and no convenience for caring for the sick. The bedsteads are wooden, and not altogether free from vermin. The table-ware looked good, the dishes being of white crockery, and the fare appeared to be excellent. Last January the keeper was stabbed by one of the inmates, and the year before one of the paupers endeavored to kill him. Both of these men are in prison, the first in Jackson for five years, and the other in the Detroit House of Correction. This shows the necessity of keeping vicious persons out of the poor-houses, as both of these men were able to work, but drifted into this establishment by reason of their laziness.

Hon. H. M. Perrin, of St. John's, accompanied us on our visit to this institution.

DELTA.

Has no poor-house ; temporary relief being provided whenever possible.

EATON.

The poor-house consists of two buildings, one a frame, and the other of brick, on a good farm a short distance from the village of Charlotte. The buildings are but poorly adapted to the purpose for which they are used. The provision for the care of the insane is not at all sufficient. A crazy woman was shut up here in a dark, plank cell, in the cellar, there being no other place in the building in which she could be cared for in cold weather. In warm weather she was permitted to range about the yard of the premises. A woman who had formerly been a school-teacher, and had become insane, was confined in the small rooms without any treatment, and was a sad spectacle. The general condition of the house was orderly, and the inmates seemed to be well fed. One of the superintendents of the poor accompanied us on the occasion of our visit.

EMMET.

No poor-house.

GENESEE.

The poor-house is a large two-story brick building, located on a farm of 103 acres, near the village of Flint. The buildings are plain but roomy, and presented many indications of care for the comfort of the inmates. Neatness and good order generally prevailed. A large portion of the inmates were kept in a large hall, in which the beds were arranged side by side, after the manner of a hospital. A boy of about sixteen or seventeen years of age was chained in one corner of this hall because he was filthy and mischievous. He was troubled with epilepsy, and was constantly making repulsive contortions, which must have been an annoyance to the other inmates. In two small rooms, off from the hall, were two sick men, one of whom was upwards of a hundred years old, and required the same attention as a child; the other with a cancer eating out his face. The stench from both these rooms was strong and foul. There were three insane persons in this institution, but none of them were violently so. No suitable provision has been made for the care of insane persons.

GRAND TRAVERSE.

Not visited.

GRATIOT.

No report.

HILLSDALE.

We visited the poor-house in this county in company with Hon. Daniel L. Pratt. It is a frame building, on a pleasant farm of 200 acres, near the village of Hillsdale. Opposite to the main building there is a small frame house, in a miserable condition, occupied by the male paupers. The character of this building was such that it could not well be kept in a decent condition. Aside from this, the premises were clean, neat, and orderly. There were several insane persons in the house, some of whom are violently so, and are required to be kept constantly confined.

HOUGHTON.

This poor-house is a large building, with stone foundation, on a farm of 240 acres, bordering on Portage Lake. The house is roomy, well built, and kept, as far as we could judge, in a good condition. We saw the paupers at table, and can bear witness that the table, with its neat oil-cloth covering and good crockery dishes and well scoured knives and forks, presented a very inviting appearance. There were thirty paupers in the institution; three of them were insane, but not violent, and seventeen children. The inmates of this institution, under the direction of the keeper, raised and picked this season a sufficient quantity of strawberries to realize \$186 00.

There is no provision here for the care of the insane. Thos. D. Meads, one of the superintendents, accompanied us to this house.

HURON.

No poor-house.

INGHAM.

The poor-house in this county is located five miles north of the village of Mason. Three wooden buildings, with very low ceilings, two of them one and a half stories high, and the other but one story, constitute the poor-house. They are in tolerably good order, considering that the character of the buildings are such as to make them quite unfit for the purposes to which they are appropriated. There are two insane persons in the house, and two idiots. The provision for the insane is wretched. There were several old persons here.

The keeper is a humane man, and anxious to make ample provisions for the ordinary wants of the paupers.

The editor of the Ingham County News was with us on this visit.

IONIA.

This poor-house is situated in the township of Ronald, about six miles northeast from the city of Ionia, on a fine

farm. The buildings have recently been erected at a cost of \$11,000, and are neat and commodious. There is an orchard on the premises, and a good vegetable garden, mainly cultivated by the paupers; but no attention is paid to the cultivation of small fruits or flowers. The grounds are new, but with few shade trees about the premises. There are 24 paupers in the house now—none that are insane or very badly idiotic. There are five children in this county-house now mingling with the other paupers at pleasure. Four of them were at school and one at home. The school-house is about one mile distant. A small stream of water runs through the farm, affording the paupers in the summer season ample facilities for bathing. Last year the wife of the keeper wove 240 yards of flannel cloth for the use of the house. She also makes all the clothing for the paupers, and for their beds, except the coats and vests. The building is heated by a furnace, and ventilated by the Rutan system of ventilation. The grounds in front of the house are being leveled off and fenced preparatory to putting the same in shape. Hon. Hampton Rich accompanied us on our visit to this place.

JACKSON.

This poor-house is situated on an undulating piece of land not far from the city of Jackson. There are a few shade trees in front of the house, and a vegetable garden, but no attention is paid to the cultivation of flowers and small fruits. The buildings are old, long, and low, and do not present an appearance at all proportioned to the wealth of the county. There are no idiots in the establishment now, but there are eight insane persons, two blind men, three cripples, and twelve persons between the ages of sixty and seventy. One of the insane women, in addition to insanity, has the St. Vitus' dance, and is constantly going through a variety of nervous contortions. She is ugly and hard to manage. The general appearance of everything is orderly. There are four children in the house, one of whom, a little girl nine years old, is suffering from a

hip disease. She seems to be well cared for, as do all the children. The whole number of paupers in the institution was thirty-four. There are three men in this institution who have been in good circumstances, and several of the insane have been tolerably well educated. One of the old men, eighty-two years of age, had considerable property, but made it over to his son on condition of his support. He formed a dislike to his son's wife, and came here rather than to live with her. Those who have brought themselves here by their vices and profligacy are usually the worst to take care of, and the most fault-finding.

KALAMAZOO.

The poor-house of this county is situated in the township of Comstock, about two miles south-west of the village of Galesburg, on a most excellent farm, almost every acre of which is tillable. The front view is fine, and in the rear the Kalamazoo River bounds and waters the place. The farm itself seems to be well worked, and in excellent condition. The buildings look tidy outwardly, but in the interior show need of a general renovation, particularly in regard to paint and some of the plastering. There seems to be, too, special need for better ventilation, as a number of the rooms were disagreeable from the odor of confined air. The ceilings are low, and the building not well adapted for county purposes, it being originally built for a company of Fourierites, who attempted here to carry their theories of living into practice, but failure attending their enterprise, the county purchased the farm, and it has since been used as an asylum for the wretched victims of poverty. The whole number of inmates now in the institution is thirty-four. Among these are six idiots, some of whom are very low in the scale of intelligence. A German woman is here with four children, all somewhat demented. The oldest, a boy of sixteen, lies in his bed most of the time. The next is a girl, deaf and dumb, fourteen years old. The third is a girl eight years old, never speaks,

although she can talk, and has been known sometimes to converse with her mother in German. The youngest is a boy about two years old; he does not seem quite right. Some years since the father and mother of these children became seized with the delusion that two of their children were deities, and bestowed all manner of worship upon them, even abstaining from food, insisting that they would be miraculously kept alive through the interposition of these gods. This delusion followed them until the father landed in the House of Correction, and the mother and children in the poor-house. There is one pauper here whose father was a wealthy man in the county, and who has now a wealthy brother who supplies him with clothing and some other delicacies, including three drams of liquor per day. Intemperance is the principal cause of all his trouble.

KALKASKA.

Has no poor-house.

KENT.

This poor-house is quite pleasantly located on a farm not far from the city of Grand Rapids. The farm is well worked, and is watered by a small stream running through it. The only small fruits raised are strawberries, of which there is quite a good bed. There is an orchard also, and a vegetable garden. Shade-trees have been put out, but there are but few that have attained to any size about the premises. The buildings, which are generally warmed by stoves, are poor; but an extra building put on the west end is new and good, and one called the "Fool's House" is good. The keeper and his lady are Hollanders, and are active, energetic people.

The wife of the keeper has no help save such as she gets from the paupers, and she manages to make all the inmates who are able do something. All the clothing is made by the paupers, under her supervision, and so is all the mending. The wood for the institution has all been prepared by the

inmates. The house seemed to be frequently scrubbed and often white-washed. There were in the house eight idiots and sixteen insane persons, but none of them are dangerous. One blind girl has been at the Asylum at Flint, and is to be taken there again. The sleeping-rooms are generally too small, some of the cells having no windows, but only small openings, which must make the cells cold, and afford insufficient light at times.

KEWEENAW.

No report.

LAKE.

Has no poor-house.

LAPEER.

The poor-house in this county is situated in the township of Mayfield, about two miles from the village of Lapeer, upon a good farm of eighty acres. A good barn and out-houses are attached to the premises. It has a fair young orchard, and a tolerably good garden; but little effort has been made to beautify the premises. A good flowing well on the place furnishes ample water for bathing and other purposes, yet there is no provision for baths. There are twelve children in the establishment, all under eleven years of age; one an infant only three months old. The matron of the establishment last year did \$40 worth of knitting besides doing all the ordinary sewing for the house. On the day of visitation all was confusion, incident to the rebuilding of the house. There are quite a number of old people here, two idiots, and five insane persons, one of which is a female. The cries of the insane woman could be heard over the whole house.

It was heart-sickening to witness the little children in this establishment, mingling with the vile, demented, crazy, and older paupers. The general appearance of the premises is good, but the noise of the hammers and the saw, intermingled with the cries of insanity and of the children, made the place at

that time confusion itself. The keeper of this house is a single man and the female department is managed by a matron and assistants. There is no cellar under this building, on account of the water being near the surface of the ground.

LENAWEE.

The poor-house in this county is a large three-story brick building, on a farm of 150 acres, about two miles south-west of the city of Adrian. The building presents a fine appearance, and in many respects is well adapted to the purpose for which it is designed. Several insane persons are kept here. The provision for these, though new, is hardly what it should be. Their cells are adjoining the apartment allotted to the females, and the noise and ravings of the more violent ones disturb the inmates of that part of the house. The building is warmed by steam. A change of keepers has recently taken place, and it is now conducted in a very orderly manner, and when visited by us the premises were in a neat and tidy condition. Among the paupers in this establishment we found one who had been supervisor of his town, and another who was formerly a superintendent of the poor.

LIVINGSTON.

This poor-house is well situated, lying handsomely on a main road, about six miles south-west of the village of Howell, and runs back to the Shiawassee River. In front of the keeper's house there are some shade trees and a flower garden, and upon the premises there are three bearing orchards, from which over one hundred barrels of good apples were sold last year, after supplying the paupers and the keeper with all they desired. The dwelling of the keeper is a frame building, one story and a half high, with a wing two stories high. Apart from this is a new brick building, especially for the paupers. Sane female paupers are all kept in the house occupied by the keeper. Four insane persons are kept in the lower part of the brick building; three are women and one a man. One of the women

complained that the man insulted them, and the keeper said it was true, but he had no other place to put them. The upper part is occupied by sane paupers. Two of them are very old men. Until within a year or so, the paupers of this county were let out to the lowest bidder to be supported. The contract was let for \$600 per year, and they were miserably cared for.

MACKINAW.

Has no poor-house.

MACOMB.

The poor-house in this county is situated in the village of Mt. Clemens. It is a large building, and appeared to be exceedingly well kept. The grounds about it were tastefully arranged. The interior of the house was clean, sweet, and comfortable. There was a number of insane persons in the establishment, as well as of idiots, some of whom were kept in close confinement in a small building provided for the purpose, a short distance from the house. In a yard adjoining this small building we saw five children, all idiots of the lowest order; and the Hon. Giles Hubbard, who was with us, declared that he had never seen any exhibition of human deformity that equaled them. The arrangements for taking care of the insane and idiotic did not compare favorably with the other conveniences of the house. We noticed here that the paupers generally had some work to do.

MANISTEE

No report.

MANITOU.

No poor-house.

MARQUETTE.

This poor-house is pleasantly situated in Marquette, about one mile from the business part of the city. The building is frame, two stories high; and although the main part is old and rather dingy in appearance, yet the character of the premises is fair as to cleanliness and order. A garden is attached, which seems to be well cultivated. A few shade trees have

been planted, but no great pains have been taken to improve the grounds. Two new cells have lately been constructed for insane persons, and one person was confined therein. A good share of the inmates were sick, and the house appeared to be as much a hospital as anything else. There was no provision for bathing.

MASON.

Has no poor-house.

MECOSTA.

No report.

MENOMINEE.

Has no poor-house.

MIDLAND.

This house is situated about three miles south-east of the city of Midland, on a new farm, and the principal part of the buildings are new. The house is neat, and looks like a good farm-house, but is poorly adapted to the purposes for which it is used, there being no means for a separation of the family of the keeper from the paupers, and no arrangement by which the sexes can properly be separated. The house is well painted inside and out. There is a new barn, and the general appearance of the farm is good. But little attention has been paid to shade trees or the cultivation of fruit. There are four children in the institution, and two insane persons. One of these is kept shut up in a close room, and is really an object of pity. In this house the keeper and the paupers all live, as it were, together, eating at the same table, and mingling much in the same rooms. There is a stream of water running through the farm.

MISSAUKEE.

Has no poor-house.

MONROE.

The poor-house of this county was erected in 1830, and is a

two-story frame building, with additions made thereto from time to time. It is quite dilapidated, and is unfit for the use to which it is put. It has connected with it, a farm of 358 acres. There were no insane persons in close confinement here. There was quite a number of old persons, and some of their rooms were not very tidy. The other parts of the house were in as fair a state of cleanliness as could be expected in view of the conveniences and rickety state of the building.

MONTCALM.

This poor-house is situated on a farm of 120 acres, five and one-half miles northeast of the village of Greenville. A small stream of water flows in front of the house. The fences are good, and there is a good vegetable garden, but no flowers nor small fruits, except currants. An addition to the house is being constructed for the purpose of making more sleeping rooms for the paupers. It will be two stories high, with a wide hall passing through the center, with rooms on either side.

The number of paupers on the day of visitation was seven, of whom three were children and one a woman upwards of eighty-four years old. She is said to have eight children alive, one of whom is a minister in Iowa. She is hard to care for, and her children have permitted her to go upon the charity of the county and the care of strangers rather than to be at the trouble of looking after her themselves. The country is new, and the poor-house has not had, perhaps, the attention that similar institutions have in some of the older counties; but, on the whole it is a good beginning, and speaks well for the enterprise and humanity of the superintendents who have it in charge.

MUSKEGON.

The Muskegon county poor-house is a plain wooden building, situated on a good farm of 80 acres. No provision has been made here for the care of the insane, and consequently some who

could not be admitted into the Asylum at Kalamazoo have had to be placed in the common jail of the county, to save them from harming themselves or others.

NEWAYGO.

Has no poor-house.

OAKLAND.

This poor-house is in the township of Waterford, about two and a half miles northwest from the city of Pontiac, is located upon a farm of 137 acres, and can be seen from the Detroit and Milwaukee railroad. The house is a large brick building two and a half stories high. It was erected in 1866, and presents a very fine appearance. It is roomy and has facilities for the accommodation of many more than are usually provided for therein. There are thirty-six inmates, ten of them insane and five idiots, and also nine or ten old and feeble persons.

There is a garden and two good orchards on the premises, but not much attention is paid to raising the smaller fruits. The prospect from the house is good, and it may be made a very pleasant spot indeed. In the upper part of the house, are small rooms with barred windows, specially provided for the insane. None of them, however, are kept in close confinement in these rooms. The house has a lying-in department in which six children have been born during the year. The rooms were clean and generally in good order. Five weekly newspapers are furnished to the paupers. We were accompanied on this visit by Hon. M. E. Crofoot, of Pontiac, and two of the superintendents of the poor.

OTTAWA.

The poor-house of this county is pleasantly situated on the bank of Grand River, about three-fourths of a mile from the village of Eastmanville. The farm is large and desirable, comprising about two hundred acres. The main part of the building is old, but has been so many times remodeled that it has been almost entirely built anew. The rooms in this part

of the house, which are principally occupied by the female paupers, bear many marks of age, and do not present as tidy an appearance as the newer part of the house, which is mostly occupied by the male paupers. There were twenty-six inmates in the institution at the time of the visitation, of which two were children under five years of age, and five were insane. Two of the insane persons were kept in cells very well suited for the purpose. To each of them there was attached a privy, outside of the cell, and the excrement passes off into a receiver. A very neat, small bath-tub has recently been provided for the use of the females, and facilities for washing and combing are good. Some of the rooms appeared clean and sweet, but a few of them looked as though they were anxiously waiting for white-wash and repairs. The classification of the inmates and the provision for the separation of the sexes are not as complete as they should be. There are good barns on the place, with some very convenient and ingenious contrivances for keeping stock and storing the produce of the farm. An ice-house furnishes an abundant supply of this article during the whole season. This is certainly a most desirable acquisition to any poor-house, especially in case of sickness. One of the insane men was very vigorously at work splitting wood. It was said that he was a great worker, and constantly doing something. There is a good orchard on the place, and some attention is paid to raising small fruits. The buildings are well painted, and the fences plain and good, but the shade trees are few.

SAGINAW.

The poor-house is situated in Saginaw township, about five miles northwest of Saginaw City. It is located upon a pretty good but small farm. The building is a large plain one. The surroundings are pleasant, but no attention has been given to ornamenting the grounds. A small orchard on the place has been in bearing for the past five or six years, but the fruit is poor. There are two children in this poor-house, and six

insane persons. One of them, a man, is locked up all the time and is quite noisy. The room in which he is confined contains only a bunk covered with straw and a couple of blankets, and is loathsome in the extreme. A large iron tub has been procured for the use of the inmates of this poor-house, and a bath-room is soon to be provided, so that the paupers may have the full benefit of plenty of water. The tables are covered with oil-cloth, which, though well worn, is certainly a great improvement on bare tables. The crockery and tin-ware that we saw in use were good, and the latter seemed to have been nicely scoured. Some of the rooms are kept in excellent order; this is especially the case with a couple of rooms in charge of an old gentleman, who said he was eighty-nine years of age. From all that we could learn, we should judge that the present keeper, who has only been in the house seven months, is keeping it more humanely than it has been kept before.

SANILAC.

This poor-house is located in the township of Lexington, about five miles northwest from the village of the same name. The main building is new and in good order, and the farm is under a fair state of cultivation. There is a small bearing orchard on the premises and a tolerably good garden. The building has good high ceilings and is well finished, with painted floors and ceilings. Each room has a door and window, and the halls are of good width. In some respects it is very well arranged, but there is a lack of proper provision for the separation of the sexes. There were seven epileptic and insane persons in the house on the day of our visitation. One was a woman in a terrible condition, having, while uncared for, a number of years ago, fallen into the fire during one of her fits, and burned her eyes nearly out. The house is apparently well kept, and presents a tidy and orderly appearance; but there is no provision for bathing, and no suitable facilities for

the inmates to wash. Two of the superintendents of the poor accompanied us on this visit.

SCHOOLCRAFT.

Has no poor-house.

SHIAWASSEE.

The poor-house of this county is a large, square two-story building, situated on a farm of eighty acres. The paupers' dining-room is in the basement. This place is also used as the common room, where many of the paupers, male and female, mingle and associate together. Here we found eight of them, five men and three women, all gathered about the stove, save one, a young woman of 27, and she crazed; she was chained in a corner, and was constantly moving to and fro within the limit of her chain. Mingling with these men was also a girl of twenty, whose sanity was in no wise certain; but were her mind not yet unbalanced, commingling with such associations could not fail to drive her to madness. At the time of the visitation there were 17 inmates in the house. The grounds were barren in front, but shade trees had been set out by the overseer. The rooms seemed to be clean, and the inmates well fed, but the provision for the insane and the promiscuous association of the males and the female insane must be condemned.

ST. CLAIR.

At the time of our visit preparation was being made to remove the poor to a building upon a farm recently purchased by the county. Heretofore the county has employed a man to board its paupers, paying him therefor at the rate of \$2 10 per week. We apprehend that this change will prove greatly beneficial to the paupers. There were twenty-three being thus boarded at the time of our visit. Four of these were insane persons, and five were children; the latter were not sent to day or Sunday school.

The house did not present either a tidy or orderly appear-

ance, for the reason, as the keeper said, they were preparing to remove the paupers. An insane woman, who has been a pauper for several years, has given birth to two illegitimate children, both begotten in the institution. A young man was lying in one of the rooms, suffering from a disease called bone consumption; one leg had rotted partly off, and been amputated, the other had commenced to rot, and the smell from it was sickening.

ST. JOSEPH.

The poor-house in this county is a two-story frame building, constructed for a hotel, but purchased by the county for a poor-house. The farm consists of 160 acres, and seems to be well cultivated. There is no special provision made for the insane; they occupy a room by themselves; some of them were excitable and difficult to take care of. The keeper's wife, an elderly lady, had charge of them, and seemed to have her hands full, as other cares incident to the house devolved upon her at the same time. The general condition of the rooms was tolerable as to cleanliness and order, but would, we apprehend, have been better if there had been more help. It was certainly as much as one woman could well do to care for three or four insane persons.

TUSCOLA.

No report.

VAN BUREN.

The poor-house is located on a farm in the town of Hartford, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the village of the same name. The farm is pleasantly situated and is in an admirable condition; the fences, crops, and barns all give evidence that a good farmer is in charge. There is a good vegetable garden, and a fair orchard on the premises. But little attention has been paid to ornamenting the grounds about the house with shade and ornamental trees. A fair lawn in front of the house is inclosed by a good fence, the front being picket, and might, by the

addition of shade trees and shrubbery, be made a very inviting spot. Within, the house is a model of neatness; we have seen but few if any homes that surpass this one in neatness and good order. The rooms and beds of the paupers appeared as good as those of any well regulated family. It certainly reflects credit upon superintendents, the keeper, and his lady, that a house with no more conveniences than this one is kept in such a tidy, healthy, and good condition.

The great want in this establishment is proper means for the classification of the inmates. The old and young, the sick and the well, the sane, the idiotic and demented are all thrown together, and children are associated with the ignorant and vile. At the time of our visit there were but 12 paupers in the house; none were insane; one is idiotic and suffers terribly from violent and painful contortions; another is a weak-minded girl. Most of the remainder are old men and women, several of whom have passed three score and ten. The average number maintained at the house is about twenty. This house should be supplied with better facilities for bathing and with a suitable ice-house, hospital accommodations, and a better dining-room and sitting-room for the paupers.

WASHTENAW.

The poor-house in this county is pleasantly situated, about two and a half miles southeast of the city of Ann Arbor.

It is located on a farm of 120 acres, which is under a fine state of cultivation. A good vegetable garden is tilled in part by the paupers. In the road opposite the house are some very fine shade trees, adding much to the appearance of the premises.

The principal building is of brick, two stories high, and has a good basement. The dwelling of the keeper is a frame building attached to the brick one.

A two-story brick building has recently been erected for a county asylum for the insane. On the day of our visit, there

were thirty-five crazy persons in this asylum. They are much better cared for here than in the poor-houses generally, having an attendant to look after them. Still they have no treatment for the disease that afflicts them; no light labor suited to their condition, and but very few of the advantages of a well regulated asylum. An insane woman with an infant in her arms, was pointed out to us as the mother of seven children, six of whom came to the house with her. An unusual and most excellent feature in this institution is the chapel. A room in the building has been neatly fitted up for this purpose, principally through the instrumentality of Rev. Dr. Gillespie of Ann Arbor, a gentleman widely known in our State as active in all philanthropic efforts for the poor and unfortunate. The inmates of the house assemble in this chapel almost every Sabbath day, and there receive religious instruction and advice. The Catholic priest of Ann Arbor has also a place fitted up in one of the rooms in the institution for worship according to the rites of his church. There is a school in the institution which has been taught by one of the paupers for many years. He is now an old man, and has been an inmate of this house for the last twenty years. Last year his health failed, and he has had to abandon teaching.

This poor-house is in good condition, the rooms generally being large and kept clean. The bedsteads are of iron, and the bedding is good. One great want is some better provision for bathing purposes; and better facilities for classification of the inmates might add to the usefulness of the institution. We are informed that ladies from Ann Arbor often visit the poor-house, and take an interest in seeing that it is well conducted.

WAYNE.

The county-house of this county is situated in the town of Nankin, on the line of the Michigan Central R. R., about two and a half miles east of the village of Wayne, upon a farm of 280 acres. The building is a large brick structure. There